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Japan

U.S. Retaliatory Move on Chip Trade Threatened

OW2605112092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—A top International Trade and Industry Ministry official expressed concern Tuesday over threatened U.S. retaliation unless foreign semiconductor chips achieve a 20 percent share of the Japanese market by the end of the year.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the chip deal was "not a promise, it's encouragement."

"Any threatening move by the U.S. might spoil Japanese firms' efforts to buy more foreign chips," he added.

The official said the two governments have agreed to encourage Japanese semiconductor users to purchase foreign-made chips at levels outlined in the pact.

According to the ministry, the foreign market share for the October-December quarter was 16.1 percent. The figure came to 14.4 percent when excluding "captive" chips sold to U.S. units in Japan and "branded" chips sold under foreign brand names.

"A more constructive approach can help improve foreign access to the Japanese market," the official said.

Electronics Makers Urged To Buy Foreign Chips

OW2505042092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0405 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 (KYODO)—International Trade and Industry [MITI] Minister Kozo Watanabe asked major Japanese electronics companies Monday for further cooperation to improve foreign access to Japan's semiconductor market, a ministry official said.

Amid growing concern in the United States that foreign microchips might not reach a 20 percent share of the Japanese market by the end of this year as outlined in the Japan-U.S. chip trade pact, Watanabe called upon the 10 major semiconductor users to boost efforts to buy more foreign-made microchips, the official said.

At the meeting, the electronics firms, including NEC Corp. and Toshiba Corp., expressed their willingness to make further efforts to help improve foreign access to the Japanese market, while asking for more pump-priming measures to fuel the nation's dull economy, he said.

According to the official, the foreign market share for the third quarter of 1991 came to 16.2 percent and that for the fourth quarter reached 16.1 percent.

The figures include "captive" semiconductors sold by a U.S. producer to its Japanese unit and "branded" chips made by Japanese companies but sold in Japan under the brand names of foreign firms. Excluding such products, the figures were 14.3 percent for the third quarter and 14.4 percent for the fourth, the official noted.

Watanabe's request came after his recent meetings with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, Commerce Secretary Barbara Franklin, and Vice President Dan Quayle.

Toshiba, National Semiconductor Sign Chip Deal

OW2305073992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0704 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. has agreed with National Semiconductor Corp. of the United States to jointly develop computer chips, company officials said Saturday.

The officials said the agreement calls for the two partners to develop about 70 varieties of high-speed complementary metal oxide semiconductors (CMOS) which are widely used for computers and electric appliances.

The two companies aim to complete the development by around September next year, they said.

The agreement will reduce the burden of development costs for both firms and help the U.S. company boost its share of the Japanese semiconductor market, they said.

Supplies of the jointly developed semiconductors will be shared by both companies, the officials said.

Semiconductor trade is one of the thorniest issues pending between Japan and the U.S.

A semiconductor agreement signed between the two countries last year called on Japan to boost the market share of foreign semiconductors above 20 percent by the end of 1992 from the present level of about 11 percent.

Camp Schwab Tank Road Work Suspension Demanded

OW2205214492 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 22 May 92 Evening Edition p 9

[Text] Once again, large-scale tank roads will be built in the U.S. Forces training area. On learning this news on 22 May, local residents all felt surprised. A similar incident took place 15 years ago when the project was started but then suspended because of local residents' strong opposition. While concerned with intensified improvement of base facilities, local residents also share strong apprehensions about environmental pollution that might be caused by an outflow of red earth in the midst of the rainy season.

Reactions in Ginoza Village

A project has been started to improve tank roads, which have become idle, on U.S. Forces Camp Schwab. Concerning this fact, Ginoza villagers have begun to share growing apprehensions about the environmental destruction that may be caused by the red earth.

The village mayor, Hiroshi Igei, who made an inspection tour of the project site on the morning of 22 May, is ready to submit a request to the U.S. Forces for the immediate suspension of the project.

The project has been started from Prefectural Highway Route 108 toward Hisashi-dake. The width of the road is being expanded by cutting out sharp slopes of the mountain. Side ditches are being built on only one side.

According to those engaged in the project, the road will be covered by gravel, but not asphalt. Since it is built on a sharp slope, there is a danger that heavy rains may destroy the shoulder of the road and wash away red earth.

On the morning of 22 May, the Ginoza village office held a meeting of leading officials, including village Mayor Igei, to consult on measures to be taken.

Mayor Igei stated in indignation: "Because of the tank road project 15 years ago, nature was destroyed and serious damage was caused by the outflow of red earth. We cannot understand why the tank road, which has not been used because of the villagers' opposition, should be repaired again. It is a retrogressive action running against the trend of disarmament." Then, he added: "We will demand that the U.S. Forces immediately stop the project. Moreover, it should be noted that trees and grass have begun to grow again on the tank road that was built 15 years ago, and it is returning to nature. To prevent an outflow of red earth, we would like to demand that the road be restored to its original state."

Reactions in Nago City

The Nago municipal government immediately started its investigation and plans to protest to the U.S. military authorities and concerned organs. On learning of the problem from the news report on the morning of 22 May, Mayor Tetsuya Higa stated: "I felt surprised. It seems that the project, which was suspended because of our protests 15 years ago, has been resumed now; however, we will certainly not tolerate such an action."

When this tank road is completed, Camp Schwab training area will be directly connected to Camp Hansen training area, and it will be inevitable that training will be intensified and conducted in a larger area. There is also concern that the project may result in an outflow of a large amount of red earth.

On the morning of 22 May, Mayor Higa asked for a meeting with the base commander so as to investigate the project, and he plans to protest against the project and demand its immediate suspension.

Russian Clarification on Disputed Islands Sought

OW2505105192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—Japan is seeking clarification of a recent Russian Government statement that a total withdrawal of former Soviet troops from a group of contested islands, promised recently by President Boris Yeltsin, "is still under consideration," a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity, was referring to a statement issued to reporters by the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday.

The statement said Yeltsin's remarks on a troop pullout, made in talks earlier this month with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, were merely a "prediction" rather than a "plan."

It also said the remarks were not made in the context of bilateral negotiations on the fate of the four disputed islands off Hokkaido, which were seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II and are demanded by Japan as a condition for a peace treaty.

The statement was issued only days after Japanese Foreign Ministry officials expressed surprise and confusion at remarks by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev earlier in the week, who said Russia would not withdraw all troops from the islands.

Japanese officials had said that Grachev's remarks contradicted Yeltsin's pledge to Watanabe.

The top official said that the Russian Embassy in Tokyo had recently briefed ministry officials on the "content and meaning" of Friday's statement, but Japan was left "unclear as to what it is trying to say."

"In any case, what is basically important is what was explained to Foreign Minister Watanabe at the highest level, by President Yeltsin himself," the official said.

Officials said Yeltsin made it clear to Watanabe that as a step toward a resolution of the decades-old territorial issue, all troops on the islands would be withdrawn, except for border guards, within one or two years' time.

Yeltsin was quoted as telling Watanabe that Moscow is about ready to begin implementing the third stage of his five-stage plan to resolve the territorial dispute, namely the demilitarization of the islands.

The top official said Japan views the president's remarks as "the most authoritative Russian Government statement," adding that "substance is what is important here and Japan is interested in seeing how that substance becomes reality."

The official was apparently indicating that Japan expects Russia to keep its pledge to withdraw all the troops.

Grachev, shortly after being named last week as Russian defense minister, told a gathering in Moscow that considering the geostrategic interests of the Russian Army, "Russian troops will not withdraw from the Kuril Islands claimed by Japan."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in March the troop level on the islands stood at 7,000 after having already been reduced by 30 percent.

Japan had repeatedly called for a removal of the troops from the territories—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets. It refuses to give Russia full-fledged economic assistance until it recognizes Japanese sovereignty over them.

Aid Offered for Natural Disasters in Kyrgyzstan

OW2205140592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan will provide 43 million yen in emergency relief assistance to Kyrgyzstan to help the former Soviet republic deal with the aftermath of pelting rains and an earthquake last week, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Officials said Japan will provide Kyrgyzstan with 100,000 dollars, or the equivalent of 12.9 million yen, in natural disaster emergency relief funds, as well as 30 million yen worth of medical supplies.

The approximately 20 tons of medical supplies are to be airfreighted to the Central Asian country within the month, they said.

Between May 15 and 17, various parts of Kyrgyzstan were hit by torrential rains, hail, and an earthquake which registered 7 on the richter scale.

An undetermined number of people were reportedly killed and injured, while thousands of houses, dozens of schools, and several hospitals were destroyed. Tens of thousands of hectares of crops were also reportedly obliterated.

Estonian Premier Tiit Vahi Arrives in Tokyo

OW2405045992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 (KYODO)—Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi arrived in Tokyo Sunday for a four-day unofficial visit.

During his stay in Japan, Vahi will meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe and business leaders. He also will hold a press conference.

PRC People's Congress Leader Wan Li Arrives

OW2505053492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0523 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 (KYODO)—Wan Li, chairman of China's National People's Congress, arrived in Japan Monday for an eight-day official visit to meet with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and other Japanese leaders.

Wan is visiting Japan at the invitation of House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi and House of Councillors President Yuji Osada.

Wan is scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe during his stay in Japan.

His visit is one of several visits this year between Japanese and Chinese leaders commemorating the 20th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On Thursday he will leave Tokyo to visit Sapporo, Takamatsu and Osaka before heading home June 1.

Meets With Foreign Minister

OW2605074892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told China's parliament leader Wan Li on Tuesday that friendly ties between Japan and China are important for peace and prosperity of the world as well as of Asia, ministry officials said.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting with Wan, chairman of China's National People's Congress, and other Chinese dignitaries, Watanabe said it is a great pleasure to welcome him on the 20th anniversary of the normalization of relations between Japan and China.

When Watanabe referred to his visits to Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen in southern China, Hu Hao, Standing Committee member of the Chinese parliament, called on him to visit Xian in northwestern China, the officials said.

Asked about visits by Japanese tourists, Chinese Ambassador to Japan Yang Zhenya said they average 600,000 a year but the number is projected to reach 800,000 this year because of celebrations marking the 20th anniversary.

Wan reportedly said the building of new hotels in the Chinese capital has resulted in an oversupply of hotel rooms for the present numbers of tourists.

Earlier Tuesday, Wan met separately with the speaker of the House of Representatives, Yoshio Sakurauchi, and the president of the House of Councillors, Yuji Osada.

Wan arrived in Tokyo on Monday for an eight-day official visit at the invitation of Sakurauchi and Osada.

Discusses U.S. With Miyazawa

OW2605110492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Chinese parliamentary leader Wan Li agreed Tuesday that friendly three-way relations among Japan, China and the United States will become increasingly important in the next century, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Wan also told Miyazawa that Beijing is keen to improve relations with Washington but added it cannot accept interference in its domestic affairs, the official said. He was referring to Washington's criticism of China's human rights record.

The chairman of China's National People's Congress welcomed Japan's longstanding offer to act as an intermediary between the two Pacific powers, the official said. Wan made the comments after Miyazawa expressed hope for warmer Sino-American ties.

The official described the meeting as congenial and friendly and said it ran 30 minutes longer than the half-hour allotted time.

Neither side brought up differences that have plagued relations since earlier this year and there was no mention of China's wish to host Emperor Akihito on a visit this fall, the official said.

Japan cooled toward the invitation, proposed to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, after China moved earlier this year to reassert sovereignty over the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea and to revive demands for war compensation for individuals.

The two governments previously settled war reparations in a 1972 joint communique and a 1978 peace treaty.

The official, requesting anonymity, said he believes China does not want to stir controversy with Japan and Beijing believes that now is not an apt time to press for the emperor's visit.

Miyazawa and Wan spent a large portion of the meeting exchanging views on economic development in China, the official said. Miyazawa praised economic development and said Japan would continue to assist China's modernization plans.

He also said the two governments should cooperate if necessary to help resolve problems faced by Japanese investors in China. Wan replied that China is trying to improve its investment climate.

He said increased investment from Taiwan and Hong Kong indicate growing confidence in China's economic reforms.

Wan arrived Monday for an eight-day visit at the invitation of House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi and House of Councillors President Yuji Osada.

The visit is one in a series of high-level exchanges planned to commemorate the 20th anniversary of normalization of relations.

Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin traveled to Japan last month and the next exchange, if agreed to, would be the visit to China by the emperor.

Meets With Diet Leaders 26 May

OW2605055292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0427 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Chinese parliamentary leader Wan Li met his Japanese counterparts in the Diet on Tuesday morning to exchange views on the relations between Japan and China, Diet officials said.

In a meeting with House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi, Wan said strengthened bilateral ties will bear great significance, with the world changing drastically, according to the officials.

Terming Wan's visit "epoch-making," Sakurauchi reportedly said Tokyo plans to actively promote parliamentary exchanges between the two countries toward the 21st century.

Wan, chairman of China's National People's Congress, solicited Japan's cooperation in improving China's environmental technologies, the officials said.

He also told Sakurauchi the Chinese legislature will strive to promote the economic reform and open-door policy initiated by Deng Xiaoping.

Wan also talked with House of Councillors President Yuji Osada in a separate meeting, officials said.

Wan arrived in Japan on Monday for an eight-day official visit at the invitation of Sakurauchi and Osada.

The visit is one of several exchanges scheduled this year between Japanese and Chinese leaders to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral relations.

Meets With Emperor Akihito

OW2605133792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Chinese parliamentary leader Wan Li met with Emperor Akihito on Tuesday but the subject of an imperial visit to China did not come up, an imperial household spokesman indicated Tuesday.

The spokesman quoted Wan, who is chairman of China's National People's Congress, as saying during a 20-minute meeting that friendship between Japan and China is necessary for stability in the region as well as the world.

The pair also discussed shared interests, which included tennis and Chinese poetry, the spokesman added.

'Concern' Expressed Over Chinese Nuclear Test

OW2605081592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan has expressed concern to China over the major underground nuclear test it conducted last week, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents the message of concern was conveyed Monday to the Chinese Foreign Ministry by the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

"We attach a great deal of importance to this question of a nuclear test ban and the continuation of such testing is regrettable," Hanabusa said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Friday that China recently conducted an underground nuclear test. The United States said the 1-megaton blast, the largest ever carried out by China, took place last Thursday in western Xinjiang Province.

One megaton is equivalent to 1 million tons of TNT, or 70 times the explosive power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1949 during the final days of World War II.

The Chinese test was far in excess of 150-kiloton limit set by the 1974 nuclear threshold test-ban treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. Nuclear powers Britain and France, while not signatories, have pledged to adhere to the treaty guidelines.

The Chinese test came amid a moratorium by Russia and France on nuclear testing. The U.S. continues testing, but has criticized China for exceeding the 150-kiloton level.

Tokyo Regrets Shooting Incident in Korean DMZ

OW2205125792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan finds it "truly regrettable" that a gun battle erupted on the border between North and South Korea and hopes the incident will not impact talks between the two on the divided peninsula, a top Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

"This is a truly regrettable turn of events, especially considering that they have come this far," said the official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity.

The official said that it is difficult to predict how the incident, which happened earlier Friday, will affect the future course of talks between North and South Korea.

The United Nations Command and South Korea's Defense Ministry announced that a South Korean Army contingent encountered a group of armed North Korean soldiers in the demilitarized zone south of the border demarcation line, and that three North Koreans were shot dead in the ensuing gun battle.

The Japanese official said it was not yet clear whether it was an organized attempt to infiltrate South Korea, or whether the North Korean unit was acting on its own.

He said Japan hopes the incident will not escalate and endanger the talks aimed at a peaceful reunification of the peninsula.

Revised Alien Law To Come Into Force 10 Jan

OW2205144692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1429 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan's new legislation which ends fingerprinting requirements for Korean, Taiwanese, and other permanent foreign residents will take effect on January 10, 1993, officials said.

On June 1, the government will promulgate the Revised Alien Registration Law, which the Diet enacted Wednesday.

Officials said the Justice Ministry has instructed all local autonomous bodies to take a transitional measure of forgoing fingerprinting requirements for foreign residents who turn 16 during the period between the promulgation and the coming into force of the law.

The existing law requires all foreign residents 16 or over who stay in Japan for more than one year to have their left index fingerprint taken when applying for the registration certificates.

The revised law will eliminate the requirement for some 602,000 Koreans and Taiwanese in Japan, and about 43,000 other foreigners with permanent resident status.

However, fingerprinting will remain in force for some 320,000 other foreign nationals who have lived in Japan for more than one year, but who do not have permanent resident status.

Tokyo Ready To Aid Thai Reconstruction Efforts

OW2405121292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] The Thai National Assembly is scheduled to start its deliberations tomorrow on the constitutional amendment concerning the election of a new prime minister from among the assemblymen. Regarding this decision, a Foreign Ministry source states that the Japanese Government will be ready to watch with great interest whether the deliberations will be carried out smoothly and that as a nation providing the largest amount of aid to Thailand, Japan will spare no efforts in providing as much cooperation as possible in promoting its economic reconstruction once the current confusion moves toward settlement.

Tokyo Welcomes Return to Peace in Thailand

OW2505091392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato welcomed Monday the restoration of peace in Thailand following the resignation Sunday of embattled Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun.

Asked for a comment on Suchinda's resignation, Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference, "We would like to welcome the situation in Thailand as improving toward the direction of peace."

Demonstrators gathered calmly outside the Thai parliament building on Monday as legislators opened deliberations on constitutional reforms that would bar unelected people like Suchinda from becoming premier, according to a news report.

Greenpeace Japan Plans To Send Team to Cambodia

OW2205140392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—A grassroots pacifist group in Tokyo plans to organize a civilian team to dispose of landmines in Cambodia, a group leader said Friday.

Kiyomi Tsujimoto, representative of Greenpeace Japan, said the team comprise citizens, including former Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel experienced in mine disposal.

Inspiration for the measure came from the earlier sending of a British group which is now teaching know-how on mine disposal in Cambodia, Tsujimoto said.

She said her group will send an advance team to Cambodia in June with the aim of preparing a school in which mine disposal know-how can be taught to the people.

During 13 years of conflict, more than one million landmines were reportedly laid in Cambodia, where the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is now conducting peacekeeping operations.

Japan's House of Councillors is currently debating a government-sponsored bill which would enable SDF personnel to join in U.N. peacekeeping activities in Cambodia and elsewhere.

Tokyo Planning To Give Yen Aid to Mongolia

OW2205142292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1414 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan is planning to grant about 2 billion yen in aid to Mongolia in connection with a Mongolia aid conference starting next Thursday in Tokyo, government sources said Friday.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is expected to exchange diplomatic notes on the aid with Mongolian Trade and Industry Minister Sed-Ochiryn Bayarbaatar on Thursday, the sources said.

Japan is also considering such bilateral assistance to Mongolia as new facilities needed to load and unload railway freight, as well as food aid, the sources said.

Sixteen countries and five international organizations will send delegates to the two-day international conference on aid to Mongolia in Tokyo. Russia, which as part of the former Soviet Union was once a major supplier of aid to Mongolia, will participate in the meeting as an observer.

The meeting will focus on finding ways to help Mongolia promote democratic reforms through funds and technical cooperation aimed at revitalizing its social infrastructure, the sources said.

At a similar gathering in Tokyo last September, participants agreed to provide Mongolia with about 155 million dollars in emergency aid. Japan has already given about one-third of the pledged aid to Mongolia.

Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren, who will visit Japan from Wednesday to attend the meeting, is expected to hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Watanabe.

Prospects of Lower House Dissolution Rising

OW2205153792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Speculation spread through Japan's political world Friday that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa would dissolve the House of Representatives for a snap general election to coincide with July's election for the second chamber, the House of Councillors.

The secretary general of the country's No. 2 opposition party, Komeito, Yuichi Ichikawa, said Miyazawa might have no choice but to dissolve the 512-seat lower house if he fails to win Diet approval for a government-proposed bill that would allow Japanese troops to join in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] Chairman Keigo Ouchi also said the same day that a dissolution is becoming ever more probable. "The government and the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] have turned dead serious about the dissolution," he said.

Ichikawa told reporters that the LDP has threatened to dissolve the lower house in the event of government failure to pass the Peacekeeping Operations Bill through the second chamber.

Ichikawa said, "We will deal with Diet business while keeping in mind a simultaneous election in July."

Leaders of the No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party [SDP], have hinted at their readiness to go into a double election.

Tomiichi Yamamoto, chairman of the SDP Diet Administration Committee, said, "We will be ready to fight a simultaneous election with other parties."

Many politicians regard Miyazawa's proposal Thursday to partially redistribute seats for the lower house as spadework for a general election.

If Miyazawa leaves the present disparity of vote value untouched, he is "politically" unable to dissolve the lower chamber, political sources said.

But the prime minister has put forth his own proposal to narrow the disparity which the Supreme Court has called a "state of unconstitutionality," so he now has the excuse to dissolve the house, one LDP official said.

The Supreme Court has ruled that a disparity of more than three-to-one is unconstitutional, saying such an imbalance goes against the principle of equality among voters.

The DSP's Ouchi, speaking at a party meeting Friday in Tokyo, said Miyazawa may dissolve the lower house if the main opposition SDP resorts to "physical resistance" against the passage of the Peacekeeping Operations Bill through the upper house.

The SDP has still to decide on whether to adopt boycotting or go-slow tactics to delay vote taking on the bill in the second chamber, SDP sources said.

The sources said the SDP will likely use every possible "physical resistance" measure to block the bill.

Former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who is considered to be the closest associate of the LDP's chief power broker Shin Kanemaru, also suggested a dissolution of the lower house, saying that present lower house members have "almost reached the average life span."

In a speech Friday, Ozawa said politicians could be "at war" anytime.

Business leader Gaishi Hiraiwa also suggested that Miyazawa may be forced to dissolve the House of Representatives if he fails to correct disparities in the value of votes.

Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said possible simultaneous elections for both houses of the Diet may depend on the success of Miyazawa's proposal to correct the disparities.

The four-year tenure for incumbent members of the House of Representatives runs through February 1994.

However, there has been persistent speculation that there might be a double election for both houses this year, as the upper house election is expected for July 26.

SDP Ready for House Dissolution

OW2305093092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0908 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Okayama, May 23 KYODO—The leader of the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) said Saturday his party is ready for dissolution of the House of Representatives over a bill that would allow Japan's military to join U.N. peacekeeping missions.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe also told a news conference in Okayama, western Japan, that it would be worth asking for the people's judgment on the bill.

Tanabe said the SDP is ready for dissolution of the lower house if the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa calls for a snap election.

The SDP is against the government-proposed bill now pending before the opposition-controlled House of Councillors. The bill passed the lower house last December with the support of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the No. 2 opposition Komeito.

The bill will become a law only if it is approved in both chambers of the Diet.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki suggested that the government might dissolve the Diet if the SDP resorted to using "physical resistance" to try to prevent passage of the bill in the upper house.

Watanuke made his remarks in a news conference in Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture, northern Japan.

The SDP has suggested it would use every possible measure, including slow-down tactics, to delay the chamber's vote on the bill.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe echoed Watanuki's view, saying in a speech in Fukuoka that if the SDP resorts to physical resistance, dissolution of the lower house would be acceptable even if it means sacrificing the bill.

But Akira Yamagishi, president of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), called on opposition parties to oppose simultaneous elections in the two Diet chambers. The upper house election is slated for July.

Yamagishi made the remarks at a news conference in Koriyama.

Snap General Election Threatened

OW2405132692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe again threatened Sunday a snap general election if the opposition stalls the government's peacekeeping operations bill from passing the House of Councillors, the upper house.

Speaking in Saga, western Japan, Watanabe repeated his call to dissolve the House of Representatives if opposition members resort to "physical resistance" in the upper house by dawdling to the ballot box to delay passage of the bill.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe said the same day Japan's biggest opposition party is ready for simultaneous elections of both houses of the Diet.

In Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, Tanabe said the SDP is ready for a dissolution of the House of Representatives if the Liberal Democratic Party tries to railroad through the upper house the bill that would authorize the first overseas dispatch of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping missions.

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida also said Sunday there can be a double election if the Diet falls into confusion over the vote on the bill.

In a speech in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, Ishida said it is reasonable for the LDP to seek popular judgment in the event of confusion but his party opposes calling a joint election.

Watanabe, also the deputy prime minister said, "if SDP members overturn the ballot box, it means the demolition of democracy. If they disrupt the vote on the bill, we will dissolve the lower house. We just have to."

Also Sunday, Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Chairman Keigo Ouchi said in Yokohama the possibility of a simultaneous election has "suddenly become strong."

Ouchi, leader of the fourth-largest opposition party, said the Diet will be in a great confusion if the SDP resorts to the snails' pace tactics and the dissolution would be justified.

Members of the Japanese Communist Party are expected to join the SDP if it adopts the go-slow tactics.

The LDP is keen to have the bill passed during the current Diet session, which ends June 21, with some modifications in accordance with requests from the DSP and Komeito, the second-largest opposition party.

Watanabe said Saturday the LDP would time a general election for the lower house to coincide with the upper house elections expected for July 26.

Tanabe said simultaneous elections of both houses would be decisive in causing the LDP to lose its majority in the lower house.

The LDP currently holds 278 seats in the powerful 512-member House of Representatives but its strength in the second chamber stands at 114, short of a simple majority.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa may make good what Watanabe has been threatening in the event of failure to get the bill through, political sources said.

Komeito, whose support is regarded as essential in getting the bill passed is expected not to join in the vote if the SDP resorts to delaying tactics, the sources said. Komeito members, who voted in the lower house last December in support of the bill, faced strong protests from party supporters, the sources said.

Dissolution Possibility 'Strong'

OW2405060992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0537 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Kurashiki, Okayama Pref., May 24 (KYODO)—The leader of the largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), said Sunday the party is ready for a simultaneous election of both chambers of the Diet in July.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe made the remarks at a rally for the House of Councillors election, which is slated for July 26.

He indicated that the SDP is ready for a dissolution of the House of Representatives and a simultaneous election if the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) tries to railroad through the Diet a bill to allow Japan's military to join U.N. peacekeeping missions.

He said the lower house election, along with the upper house election, would be decisive in causing the LDP to lose its majority of seats in the lower house.

The LDP has 278 seats in the powerful 512-member lower chamber.

The SDP, which opposes the government-proposed bill now pending in the opposition-dominated upper house, has suggested it would use every possible measure, including slow-down tactics, to delay the chamber's vote on the bill.

The bill passed the lower house last December with the support of the LDP and the No. 2 opposition party Komeito. Approval by both houses of the Diet is necessary for the bill to become a law.

LDP leaders have suggested that the government might dissolve the Diet if the SDP resorted to using "physical resistance" to prevent passage of the bill in the upper house.

Tanabe said if the LDP intends to threaten the SDP by hinting at a dissolution, the SDP will take up the challenge.

Also Sunday, in Yokohama, Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Chairman Keigo Ouchi said the possibility of a simultaneous election has "suddenly become strong."

The leader of the fifth-largest opposition party said at the DSP Kanagawa Prefecture convention that the Diet will be in a great confusion if the SDP resorts to "physical resistance" against passing the bill and then the dissolution will be just [words indistinct]. He criticized the SDP's stance on the bill, saying it will damage the cooperation among opposition parties.

Miyazawa Stresses Caution

OW2505091492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Miyazawa said at the plenary session of the House of Councillors today that it is not a good idea to carelessly refer to the dissolution of the House of Representatives. Prime Minister Miyazawa called for a cautious approach when referring to Foreign Minister Watanabe's remarks that the House of Representatives should be dissolved as a warning to the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] if the SDPJ physically prevents the passage of the peacekeeping operations [PKO] cooperation bills.

At the House of Councillors' plenary session that began at 0100 GMT today, SDPJ member Kazuo Oikawa referred to Foreign Minister Watanabe's remarks at a lecture in Fukuoka City on 23 May that if the SDPJ resorts to physical resistance to prevent the passage of the PKO bills, it would be necessary to appeal to the country by dissolving the House of Representatives. SDPJ member Oikawa then asked for Prime Minister Miyazawa's view on such remarks. In response, Prime Minister said: I have not heard Foreign Minister Watanabe's remarks directly from him. However, the House of Representatives should be dissolved when the legislative unit and the administrative unit are opposed to each other or when the situation requires the government to ask for judgment of the people, who are the sovereigns of the country. Therefore, dissolving the House of Representatives has crucial significance and should not be mentioned carelessly. In this way, Prime Minister Miyazawa indicated that he will call on Foreign Minister Watanabe and other officials to make guarded statements on the issue of dissolving the House of Representatives.

Komeito, DSP Agree To Seek PKO Bill Passage

OW2605085992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) agreed Tuesday to strive for passage in the House of Councillors of a government-proposed bill allowing Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join international peacekeeping operations.

The agreement was reached between Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida and DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi at a 45-minute meeting in the Diet building, Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa said.

The two middle-of-the-road opposition parties also agreed to seek acceptance by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of parliament's prior consent on the dispatch of SDF personnel for U.N. missions.

Both parties also agreed that the Diet should freeze the participation of SDF personnel in U.N. peacekeeping forces for the time being.

The government and the LDP have tried to woo Komeito and the DSP to help ensure the bill's passage in the opposition-controlled upper house.

The legislation was approved last December by the LDP-dominated House of Representatives.

DSP 'May' Withdraw Support

OW2605121792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Chairman Keigo Ouchi said Tuesday his party may back away from its support for a government-proposed bill that would enable Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping operations overseas.

Ouchi made the remark after a ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader told the DSP that the LDP will seriously consider dissolution of the House of Representatives if the opposition party insists on a wider interpretation of a provision for the Diet's prior endorsement of specific participation in peacekeeping missions.

High-ranking DSP officials earlier said Japan's fourth largest opposition party will ask the government to enlarge the scope of prior parliamentary endorsement to cover the deployment of medical, transport, telecommunications and other logistics support for peacekeeping operations.

Ouchi told reporters, "such fields are gray zones, which may involve the U.N. peacekeeping forces."

He said he heard that LDP strongman Shin Kanemaru will ask Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to dissolve the 512-seat lower house if the DSP demands the wider interpretation of prior Diet endorsement.

Ouchi said, "The LDP is getting conceited as it is convinced the bill will pass through the opposition-controlled second chamber with the cooperation of the DSP and Komeito."

The leader of the DSP said the party has considered the wider interpretation as part of its efforts to lure the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Rengo Sangiin to support the government-proposed bill.

Ouchi said the DSP decided to pull back in its efforts to induce the SDP and Rengo Sangiin to support the bill.

The SDP and Rengo Sangiin have demanded that SDF personnel must not participate in U.N. peacekeeping missions as such participation would violate the country's war-renouncing Constitution.

Ouchi said the DSP would have to make a "grave decision" on whether to back the bill if the LDP does not compromise on the issue of prior endorsement.

Meanwhile, however, the DSP and the second largest opposition Komeito agreed to make every effort to pass the government-proposed bill through the upper house.

Ouchi and Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida arrived at the agreement in a meeting in the Diet building the same day.

The two parties also agreed not to allow Japan's direct participation in U.N. peacekeeping forces, part of the U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Asked by reporters about a possible contradiction between the DSP-Komeito accord and the DSP's threat to withdraw its support for the bill, Ouchi said the DSP made the agreement with Komeito "only within the context of relations between the two parties."

The bill is currently pending in the upper house after passing through the House of Representatives last December.

The bill can become law only if both houses of parliament approve it.

Pump-Priming Measures Said Beginning To Work

OW2505033292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the Diet on Monday that the government's seven-point pump-priming measures are beginning to have the desired effects on the economy. The measures, including a front-loading of public works projects in fiscal 1992, were announced at the end of March.

Answering questions from an opposition legislator at a plenary session of the House of Councillors, Miyazawa also indicated that the government has no immediate plans to implement an income tax cut.

Turning to the securities industry scandals, Miyazawa said a government securities watchdog body to be established this summer would have basically the same functions as the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata told the same session that the proposed monitoring body would have the power to conduct investigations into securities industry wrongdoing even after a Japanese court had completed civil proceedings on such a case. The body could also conduct probes into questionable overseas securities transactions involving Japanese securities companies, Hata said.

Bank of Japan Reshuffles Top Officials

OW2205085192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0636 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) said Friday Takayuki Kamoshida, 53, director of its governor's office, will replace Ryutaro Hizume as director of the operations department. Hizume was reassigned to the personnel department.

Shuzo Aoki, 51, former executive auditor of the Tokyo International Financial Futures Exchange, will take over the directorship of the governor's office.

Mitsuhiro Ohashi, 49, an inspector, was appointed as the head of Hiroshima branch.

According to informed sources, the central bank has decided on personnel changes among other branch managers, that are expected to be officially announced Monday.

The new managers, with their current posts in parentheses, are as follows:

Naha branch—Akira Tamura, 45, (chief manager of the Policy Planning Division's Policy Coordination Division)

Kagoshima branch—Koichi Koike, 44, (chief manager of the Personnel Department's Personnel Division)

Kitakyushu branch—Kazuhiko Ono, 45, (chief manager of the Information and Computer System Department's Planning and Coordination Division)

Niigata branch—Makoto Nukaga, 45, (chief manager of the International Department's Planning and Coordination Division)

Fukushima branch—Hiroshi Fukuda, 44, (chief manager of the Budget and Management Department's Budget Division)

Plan To Support 20% of Environmental Aid Viewed

OW2305111292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 23 KYODO—Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has sketched out a draft proposal that would bind Japan to shoulder some 20 percent of 70 billion dollars in U.N.-orchestrated, environment-related aid to poor nations, LDP sources said Saturday.

The party will put forth the proposal ahead of the Earth Summit to clarify Japan's stand on international contributions to help clean up the deteriorating environment in developing nations, the sources said.

The Earth Summit, officially called the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), is set for June 3-4 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Earth Summit secretariat earlier estimated that disbursements of 125 billion dollars annually would be needed by the year 2000 to help developing countries bolster their economies and clean up their pollution-hit areas, they said.

Developed nations have currently raised 55 billion dollars as economic aid to developing nations.

The UNCED secretariat has said an additional 70 billion dollars needs to be raised.

However, Finance Ministry officials, questioning the financial rationale of the U.N. aid estimation of 125 billion dollars, warned the money might be wasted as it is hard to track down destinations of the disbursed money.

The Finance Ministry says that, if the government unveiled a plan to shoulder the 20 percent share of the burden, Japan would be bound by what the international community might perceive as Japan's international commitment.

The LDP sources said they might also encounter objections from the business community, as it would fear that new financial commitment would create a demand for a new "environment tax" to be slapped on business corporations.

However, the sources noted that Japan should have financial leeway in view of the fact that Japan donated billions of dollars to the United States-led multinational forces that fought against Iraq during the Persian Gulf war.

A senior LDP official said, "contributions to efforts to preserve the global environment would be the sole area in which Japan could take the leadership in the global community."

He said Japan's active cooperation in the field of global environment preservation might help win support from other industrial democracies for Japan's bid to persuade Russia to return four occupied islands at the Munich summit of the world's seven major economic powers in July.

If the 20 percent share proposal bogged down due to objections, Japan may propose increasing the envisioned size of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) from the current 1.3 billion dollars to 5 billion dollars and shouldering an "appropriate share" in the expanded facility, he said.

North Korea

Army To Deliver Remains of 15 U.S. Soldiers

SK2605044492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 26 (KCNA)—The Korean People's Army side will deliver the remains of another fifteen U.S. soldiers who were missing in the areas of the northern half of Korea during the Korean war to the "U.N. Forces" side at Panmunjom on May 28 according to repeated humanitarian steps of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Inspection of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Demanded

SK2605045992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 26 (KCNA)—MINJOK SIBO, a newspaper of Koreans overseas, in an editorial on May 21 called for a thoroughgoing inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons on the occasion of nuclear inspection of the North and the South of Korea.

Saying the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula resulted from the U.S. deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea, the editorial wrote that the problem would remain unsolved unless the U.S. forces' nuclear problem is resolved fundamentally.

Since the United States welcomed the No "regime's" "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" there is no ground for it to refuse a nuclear inspection, it said, and added:

The declaration on the absence of nukes in South Korea means that there is no U.S. nuclear arms there. Hence, the United States is obliged to show a positive response to nuclear inspection.

'Non-Regular' IAEA Inspection Team Arrives

SK2605151992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 26 (KCNA)—A non-regular inspection group of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] led by Wily Theis, a section chief of the safeguard department of the IAEA, arrived here by air on May 25.

Report on DMZ Battle Called 'Fictitious Drama'

SK2305043292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0254 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The South Korean puppets committed a stern provocative act against the northern half of the Republic. The South Korean puppets broadcast a false report on 22 May after fabricating a fictitious, nonexistent drama, therefore committing a grave provocative act which significantly irritates us.

The South Korean puppets aired a false report on 22 May that three soldiers of the Korean People's Army attempted to cross the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] at the Demilitarized Zone of the central front, two of them were captured alive at dawn and the remaining soldier fled.

Some time later, the South Korean puppets fired scores of bullets at security guard posts on our side, and as a result our security guards faced grave danger. It was totally thanks to our side's security guards self-restraint that the rascals' shooting did not escalate into an armed confrontation between the two sides.

After the firing of guns, the South Korean puppets made a false report that three soldiers of our Korean People's Army were killed after engaging in a firefight with the puppet soldiers at a point 1 km south of the central demarcation line in the Demilitarized Zone located north of Chorwon County, Kangwon Province, South Korea.

We cannot help but take very seriously such stratagic propaganda committed at a time when the North-South dialogue is progressing and confidence between the people of North and South is developing and the ardent desire for national unification is burning fiercely.

This is a deliberate provocative act of the South Korean puppets to break up the North-South dialogue which is progressing favorably, to placate the South Korean people's fierce struggle for antigovernment and antifascist democratization and national reunification, and to evade the chaotic political crisis they find themselves in.

Our People's Army is the revolutionary armed force designed to defend our party, our socialist fatherland, and our gains from the revolution from the enemy's agression.

The South Korean puppets should immediately stop all kinds of stratagems that provoke us. If the South Korean puppets stick to artificial stratagem maneuvers by continually fabricating nonexistent incidents in defiance of our repeated warnings, they will be forced to take full responsibility for all consequences resulting from it.

Paper Comments on DMZ Clash

SK2505015392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0025 GMT 25 May 92

[NODONG SINMUN 25 May commentary: "A Self-Written Drama That Seeks To Achieve an Insidious Goal"]

[Text] The South Korean puppets have recently kicked up an absurd strategic propaganda against us.

On 22 May, the puppets spread the news that they had captured alive two of the three soldiers of the People's Army who infiltrated the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] in the DMZ at the central frontline and the remaining soldier fled.

Some time later, the puppets reported that all three soldiers of our People's Army had been killed as a result of a firefight with the puppet army in a spot located 1 km south of the central MDL in the DMZ north of Chorwon County, Kangwon Province, South Korea.

On the same day the puppets also committed a serious military provocative act of firing scores of bullets at our side's guard posts.

The Korean People's Army is a self-defense revolutionary armed force designed to defend our party, the socialist fatherland, and the gains of the revolution.

Infiltration or other things the South Korean puppets babble about are far-fetched fabrications that have nothing to do with the mission of the People's Army.

As demonstrated by the puppets' act of firing, it was the South Korean puppet army that carried out a serious military provocation against us.

The South Korean puppets' babbling about somebody else's infiltration or other things is a deliberate and premeditated self- made, fabricated drama designed to provoke us and strain the situation.

Under no circumstances can we overlook the ignoble provocation committed by the South Korean puppets against us.

In particular, we cannot but take it seriously that the South Korean puppets have undertaken such a strategic propaganda and military provocation at a time when the atmosphere of reconciliation, unity, and reunification is surging ahead among the nation following the adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement.

The South Korean authorities, who signed the North-South agreement because they were unable to withstand public pressure at home and abroad, are now openly clinging to a delay tactic at a time when the agreement should be put into practice.

This is proven by the South Korean ruling bunch's behavior that remains unchanged as it pursues confrontation and war, while trying to postpone in every way the adoption of annexed agreements for the implementation of the agreement and venues for North-South talks while keeping in place the evil fascist laws that define us as enemies.

The South Korean authorities' false, fabricated propaganda and their military provocation are deliberate moves aimed at creating new obstacles to the agreement's implementation by aggravating tensions even more by taking advantage of such propaganda.

This is only part of the goals the fabricated drama seeks to achieve. The people's anti-Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and antigovernment struggle is now rising high in South Korea following the anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising and the DLP's game of nominating a presidential candidate.

The youth, students, and people strongly call for the liquidation of the dictatorial politics and national reunification. The people's struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification is expected to become more fierce in the face of a presidential election to take place toward the end of the year.

Stung by the people's resistance, the South Korean authorities are now more viciously carrying out suppression of youth and students under the pretext that they flew the flag of the Republic, linking them and their activities with us.

It is clear to all that South Korean authorities are bent on fostering a sense of distrust of us among South Koreans through their self-made drama. They are also bringing their power crisis under control by suppressing the youth and students' just struggle and by linking the flag flying with us more harshly. It is, however, nothing but a last-minute desperate act by those who are in a crisis.

In no way will a fabricated drama provide South Korean authorities a way out.

If the South Korean authorities keep advancing along the road of suppressing the people's movement for independence, democracy, and reunification, and delaying and blocking the implementation of the North-South agreement, they will be forced to take full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom. They will never be able to avoid being sternly judged by the people as being antireunification and splittist.

3d JNCC Contact Held; Called 'Fruitless'

SK2405020792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The third contact of members of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] was held on 23 May in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom. Three members and suite members from each side participated in the contact. The contact was held behind closed doors.

After the contact a member of our side gave a news briefing.

According to him, our side noted that the need to adopt an agreement to implement the joint declaration on denuclearization has been confirmed and a consensus had been reached on adopting rules of inspection to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula together with the agreement through the previous two rounds of contact of members.

Our side made it clear that there was no change in our principle of package solution, saying that to adopt an agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration and the rules of inspection of denuclearization as a package meant alternate debate on the agreement and the rules, its supplement, and simultaneous signing and effectuation of the final documents by both sides' premiers.

Out of the desire to hasten the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization, our side proposed to discuss the rules of inspection first and then the agreement at today's contact.

Our side stressed that what is important in discussing the rules of inspection is, first, that the question of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases must be set as an independent article in the composition of the articles of the rules. Second, the discussion of the inspection rules should be a working-level debate faithful to the content of the joint declaration on denuclearization and designed to implement it thoroughly. Third, the principle of simultaneous removal of suspicions for the adoption of reasonable and fair rules of inspection should serve as the guideline for adopting rules and should be maintained.

The South side from the beginning of the contact severely opposed our proposal to set the question of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases as an independent article and made provocative remarks by saying there is a possibility our side has smuggled in nuclear weapons and that an agreement has been concluded with a third nation. The South side also caused a commotion by opposing the principle of simultaneous removal of suspicions and insisting on special inspection and the principle of reciprocity. In addition, the South side said that we must leave out our side's proposal that the question of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases be set as an independent article in setting inspection rules and made a preposterous claim by saying that nuclear substances and nuclear facilities are the same as nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

Our side said that nuclear substances and nuclear facilities are plainly different from nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, and they are different from each other in character, purpose, method of deployment and control, and in method of verification and inspection and procedures. Our side pointed out the South's side's insistence on reciprocity, special inspection, and inspection of same number is intended to block inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea.

The South side, however, argued in a far-fetched manner that the nuclear weapons and bases could not be included in the objects of inspection because there were no such things in South Korea in view of the declaration of nuclear absence made by the South side's chief executive.

Our side asked the South side if this meant that South Korea was influenced by the U.S. policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons. The South side avoided answering this question.

Noting that the Americans, the real masters who have brought and deployed and control nuclear weapons in South Korea, are keeping silent, our side said this silence increases our suspicion of the declaration of nuclear absence.

Citing facts, our side said the Americans themselves confess now that the United States has worked out a plan to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

Our side revealed that the reason for the fruitless three rounds of contacts of members is that the South side had no intention at all to hold North-South inspection or to achieve denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The South side, having no faith in the North as a counterpart for dialogue, did not even come out with a draft agreement for implementing the denuclearization declaration. The South side even upset the agreement to settle the agreement for implementing the denuclearization declaration and its supplementary agreement, namely inspection and verification, as a package solution. In addition, the South side changed the contact place into a place for dispute and propaganda and is clinging to its stalling tactics. Our side urged the South side to come out with a draft agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration next time.

Fourth Military Subcommittee Meeting Reported

SK2505140792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1210 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The fourth meeting of the Military Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held in the southern portion of Panmunjom today. The chairman of the Military Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks and six members attended from our side, and the chairman and six members attended from the South side.

The meeting was held behind closed doors. Our side's chairman briefed reporters at the end of the meeting.

According to him, our side stressed that in view of the strained situation in our country, the Military Subcommittee should complete discussion of annexed agreements for implementation and observance of domain of North-South nonaggression found in Chapter Two of the North-South agreement at an early date as a task assigned by the North-South high-level talks and should make the Joint Military Committee begin its work as soon as it is formed.

Our side pointed out that in order to do this, the two sides should have unanimously presented basic documents and should have accelerated discussion of these documents so that they could substantively discuss annexed agreements from the first meeting of the Military Subcommittee. However, the South side finally came to the third meeting with annexed agreement drafts. Both the form and content of these drafts completely ignored the articles on nonaggression in the North-South agreement.

Our side said that the task for members of both sides is to conclude discussion by 1 September so that the agreement on the implementation and observance of nonaggression can be effectuated at the eighth North-South high-level talks. Our side touched on differences in views which are shown in the annexed agreements presented by both sides. By citing concrete examples, our side pointed out that these differences were caused by the failure of both sides to overcome the issue of the number of annexed agreements. In addition, there are basic differences about the content of the annexed agreements.

Our side, with a view to narrowing the differences between the sides and smoothly promoting the adoption of the annexed agreement on all accounts, came up with a new annexed agreement that takes the South side's views into consideration.

Noting that the amendment to the annexed agreement not only contains everything which, faithful to the North-South agreement, could implement and guarantee nonaggression most thoroughly but also comprehends the South side's view sincerely, our side proposed to the South side a discussion of the annexed agreement on the basis of its reasonable amendment.

Speaking at the session, the South side, claiming that it came with a draft of a single annexed agreement by accepting our demand for the adoption of a single comprehensive annexed agreement, brought forward without amendment a mechanical mixture of its former two drafts of the annexed agreement.

While talking about the general concept of the agreement and so forth, the South side included definitions of the words in the agreement. The South side, talking about realities, practical situations, and so forth, repeated its previous claims that annexed agreements for what can be easily agreed on should be made first and necessary annexed agreements should be adopted after going through concrete discussions. The South side proposed that the establishment of a direct telephone line should be discussed first.

Moreover, the South side babbled about the infiltration of the so-called armed group, an incident that it recently fabricated, and made very unreasonable remarks designed to pick a fight with us, its partner in dialogue. Our side strongly denounced the South side for presenting an issue that has nothing to do with the talks and for thus building an artificial barrier to the talks. Our side also clearly stated that achieving reconciliation and unity, and thus achieving reunification, is our consistent reunification policy and stressed that the entire world knows that our soldiers do not commit any act that runs counter to our policy.

Our side strongly pointed out: Talking about the incident without clearly investigating it echoes those who are not happy with the implementation of the North-South agreement.

As a result of our side's logical rebuttal, the South side could no longer raise this issue.

Then our side pointed to the essential defects of the draft agreement presented by the South side.

Our side said that, first, the South side did not give a correct title to the annexed agreement and that the South side's title does not cover the overall aspects of nonaggression but hints at the implementation of a few paragraphs. Our side pointed out that a wrong title is definitely accompanied by wrong content, just like a wry expression reflects an uncomfortable feeling. Our side asked the South Korea to give it a correct title first.

Our side also said that the South side's annexed agreement is not substantial, full, or clear-cut. Citing facts, our side also said that because it mentions none of the basic paragraphs of the North- South agreement and contains unrealistic logic, it causes complexities and difficulties in discussions.

Then our side stressed that the South side must systematically codify its annexed agreement according to the order of the paragraphs of the basic agreement.

Our side also said that the South side's draft annexed agreement has many problems with its content, adding in detail that it is an unreasonable and unbalanced annexed agreement that neglects the basic paragraphs of the part of nonaggression; that its original character as an agreement on the implementation of nonaggression is blurred because it is composed of unnecessary and meaningless content; that prevention of armed clashes is replaced with expansion of clashes; and that it is composed of clauses lacking independence in that it failed to correctly establish relations between the basic agreement and international treaties.

Our side stressed that even a single word or letter in the draft annexed agreement must be selectively used in ways to contribute to reunification and reconciliation and unity.

While making poor excuses, the South side asserted in a far- fetched manner that it could not accept the draft annexed agreement presented by our side.

When our side asked the South side which paragraphs of our draft agreement it cannot accept, the South side cited the paragraphs on a ban on reinforcing armed forces along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], a ban on all forms of reconnaissance, and nonparticipation in foreign countries' use of armed forces and acts of aggression.

Our side refuted the South side's argument, noting that their objection revealed its intention to continue to reinforce armed forces along the MDL, constantly conduct reconnaissance on our area, and continue to join outside forces in the acts of aggression against fellow countrymen.

The South side failed to make any more excuses when faced with our side's just argument.

Upon concluding the meeting, our side asked the South side to sincerely participate in discussions on issues, sincerely follow the North-South agreement, and faithfully handle mutual agreements. Our side also asked the South side to come to the next, fifth meeting after sincerely deliberating on our draft annexed agreement. The South side consented to this.

It was agreed to have the fifth meeting on 19 June.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Oman

SK2605103992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 26 (KCNA)—A joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman has been published.

The joint communique dated May 25 reads in part:

Out of the desire to develop friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in different fields, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman have agreed to open diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic missions at ambassadorial level from the day when this joint communique is signed.

The relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman shall be based on the principles of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect of sovereignty and non-interference in the other's internal affairs and the principle of equality and mutual benefits as stipulated in the United Nations Charter.

Signing this joint communique, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman express the hope that the diplomatic relations will contribute to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation in the interests of the two countries.

The joint communique was signed by Choe Su-hon, vice-minister of foreign affairs, authorized by the Government of the DPRK, and Haisim bin Tariq bin Taimour, deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of political affairs, authorized by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

South Korea

Further on 22 May South-North Clash in DMZ

UN Command Confirms Casualties

SK2305034192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0320 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP)—The United Nations Command (UNC) confirmed Saturday the death of a third North Korean soldier and the wounding of two South Korean soldiers as a result of Friday's firing incident in the Demilitarized Zone which divides the North and South of the Korean peninsula.

UNC officials said the 11:30 A.M. incident, which occurred in the Chorwon area about 100 kilometers east of the truce village of Panmunjom, involved a North Korean Army patrol, composed of at least three heavily armed soldiers and apparently disguised as South Korean soldiers, and a South Korean Army patrol.

The North Korean patrol was intercepted about one kilometer south of the Military Demarcation Line in the 4 kilometer wide buffer zone. The two patrols exchanged fire for several minutes resulting in the fatalities and injury, the command said in a news release updating the incident.

A number of small arms and other weapons were taken from the dead soldiers including automatic rifles, pistols and explosives, it said.

The injured South Korean soldiers have been evacuated to a Korean military medical facility. One soldier is in serious condition and the second suffered a minor injury, according to the release.

A UNC joint observer special investigation team has visited the incident site and confirms that the North Korean soldiers were armed with U.S. and South Korean-style equipment including M-16 rifles, 9mm and

0.45 calibre pistols, several hundred rounds of ammunition, grenades, and surveillance equipment, it said.

The men were dressed in uniforms somewhat similar in appearance to South Korean Army apparel. They were not carrying identification.

It said the bodies have been turned over to the UNC Military Armistice Commission.

Clash Called 'Serious Violation'

SK2505034492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] In a statement on the North Korean 22 May armed infiltration of the Military Demarcation Line in the Demilitarized Zone, the National Unification Board said that it was a serious violation of the North-South basic agreement.

The National Unification Board urged North Korea to agree to a Military Armistice Commission [MAC] meeting immediately in accordance with the North-South basic agreement in which the two sides promised to abide by the current Military Armistice Agreement until a state of peace is achieved. The board also urged the North to respond to a proposal for a joint on-site investigation.

The National Unification Board also warned that North Korea's calling the armed infiltration a self-made drama by our side instead of admitting the infiltration will seriously influence relations between North and South.

Military Subcommittee Meets

SK2505085792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] North and South Korea held the fourth North-South Military Subcommittee meeting for two hours beginning at 1000 [0100 GMT] today at the House of Peace on our side's area of Panmunjom. They discussed the adoption of supplementary agreements on nonaggression at this meeting.

Our side presented revised supplementary agreements—a draft supplementary agreement on the nonuse of military forces for implementing and abiding by North-South nonaggression and a draft supplementary agreement on preventing accidental armed conflicts—based on the two previously presented supplementary agreements. The North side presented a revised draft supplementary agreement after partially revising its previously presented drafted supplementary agreement. Then the sides exchanged views.

Our side stated that the 22 May incident in which North Korean armed soldiers infiltrated South Korea's area violates not only the basic spirit of the North-South basic agreement but also the Military Armistice Agreement clauses on the nonuse of armed forces and nonaggression. Our side also urged the North Korean side to take measures to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents and to have the Military Armistice Commission reveal the complete truth.

The North Korean side replied that North Korea's armed forces would not have committed such an act that runs counter to the reunification policy of the government and party and that this incident must not be discussed any more at the Military Subcommittee meeting.

North and South Korea agreed to hold the fifth Military Subcommittee meeting on 19 June at Tongilgak on the North side's area of Panmunjom.

North Blames 'Third Party'

SK2505093992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0925 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, May 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—Friday's exchange of fire between South Korean soldiers and North Korean infiltrators was discussed briefly by the inter-Korean Military Subcommittee in a meeting Monday at the truce village, but the North refused to pursue the topic.

South Korea asked the North to explain the incident through the Military Armistice Commission and take proper steps to avoid a recurrence.

The South charged that such an act at a time the two Koreas were trying to work out measures to carry out and observe non-aggression was a breach of the spirit of the inter-Korean basic agreement and a sign of Pyongyang's rejection of peaceful dialogue.

The North denied its involvement, arguing that the incident seemed to have been perpetrated by "a third party abhoring inter- Korean reconciliation and cooperation." Observers here took note of that remark as it spelled a departure from radio Pyongyang's earlier contention that the incident was invented by the South Koreans.

"The North Korean Armed Forces couldn't do things contrary to the unification policy of the government and the party," the northern delegates said, ending discussion of the issue except to say it was not a problem to be dealt with by the subcommittee.

The two sides talked about the adoption of a supplementary agreement to perform and observe non-aggression but didn't produce any tangible results.

The South proposed an improved draft agreement to prevent accidental armed clashes and non-use of forces combining the agreements on the establishment and operation of a military hot line and non-aggression.

The two sides agreed to resume their meeting on June 19.

IAEA To Inspect 14 North Nuclear Facilities

SK2505152192 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1220 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] will inspect a total of 14 nuclear facilities. However, the 14 facilities are those that North Korea presented as the targets of inspection. Therefore, the current inspection will be limited in its ability to find the truth about North Korea's nuclear program. Reporter Chong Chang-hun reports:

[Begin recording] [Chong Chang-hun] The focus of the IAEA inspection is the radiation chemistry laboratory at Yongbyon, which was found to be a nuclear reprocessing facility during the visit to North Korea by IAEA Director General Hans Blix. North Korea had concealed the presence of this facility, 80 percent of whose construction has been completed, until 4 May when it handed in its first report. The 14 facilities North Korea reported to the IAEA include the radiation chemistry laboratory at Yongbyon, two nuclear fuel rod manufacturing and storing facilities at Yongbyon, a five-megawatt experimental nuclear reactor for generating power, a 50-megawatt nuclear power plant under construction at Yongbyon, and a 200-megawatt nuclear power plant under construction in Taechon, North Pyongan Province. They also include two uranium mines and uranium refineries in Pyongsan and Pakchon.

It is generally pointed out that, because the IAEA's nuclear inspection is limited in its ability to prevent nuclear development, as has been proven in Iraq, the inspection of North Korean facilities will make it difficult to completely remove suspicions about North Korea's nuclear weapons development.

[Yun Tok-min, professor of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security] If North Korea has hidden nuclear facilities that it has not made public, I think North-South mutual inspection is necessary to find them out. This will make up for the weak points of the IAEA's inspection system. [end recording]

Accordingly, the ROK Government, believing that not only special inspection but also North-South mutual inspection must be conducted without fail, is planning to continue negotiations on the nuclear issue for mutual inspection by the middle of June as the North and South have agreed.

Inspection May Be 'Insufficient'

SK2505150492 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1217 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The United Nations inspection of major North Korean nuclear facilities will virtually start today. The ad hoc nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] experts will identify nuclear facilities and nuclear materials from the list North Korea has presented. It is believed that full-scale inspection will be conducted after July. Correspondent Cha Man-sun reports from Vienna:

[Begin Cha Man-sun recording] The IAEA's ad hoc nuclear inspection of North Korea which will start today is expected to be insufficient for completely dispelling doubts about North Korea's nuclear program. Still, since this is the first inspection by nuclear experts, its results will be noteworthy because this inspection will be a general ad hoc inspection designed to identify the Yongbyon nuclear complex and other important facilities.

Even if the IAEA inspectors examine the radiation chemistry laboratory, which is considered to be a nuclear reprocessing facility, they will examine only its scale but will not be able to examine how efficient this facility is. Experts say that due to the lack of information on new North Korean nuclear facilities, it would be difficult to completely examine North Korea's nuclear program.

However, based on the results of the visit to North Korea by Director General Hans Blix and the report from the current inspection, the IAEA will write a report on the status of North Korea's implementation of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord and give the report to its Executive Council meeting to be held on 15 June. The IAEA, in particular, will conclude a supplementary agreement with North Korea, an agreement that stipulates concrete inspection procedures and methods; report it to the September Executive Council meeting; and hold concrete discussions on the annual general inspection. [end recording]

3d JNCC Contact Held; No Agreement Reached

SK2305065792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] On the morning of 23 May, South and North Korea held the third round of delegates' contact of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom. The delegates held negotiations on arranging the text for regulating nuclear inspection, but because both sides adhered to their existing positions, no agreements were reached.

Reporter Chong Chang-hun reports on today's meeting.

[Begin Chong Chang-hun recording] In today's working-level delegates' contact, both sides failed to adjust to each other's positions. Each of the three delegates' contacts held so far to arrange the text for regulating nuclear inspection has ended without any agreements. As a result, there will be no further contacts between both sides' delegates. Both sides will meet again at the fifth round of the JNCC to exchange opinions.

In today's meeting, our side urged the North side to discuss first the regulation, content, and structure system of inspection according to the order listed in the agreement on forming and operating the JNCC because both sides agreed to provide the inspection regulations by the end of the month.

Although the North side seemed to respond to this, it only repeated its existing position that the type, method, and procedure of inspection, as well as inspection sites, be regulated by separating nuclear items into weapons, bases, facilities, and material. Also, the North side put forth the issue of adopting the implementation of the annexed agreement.

Our side revealed that we will take a flexible position if the North eliminates the paragraph containing the theory on denuclearization, but the North side rejected this.

Our side insisted that to guarantee the effectiveness of mutual inspection, special inspections must be included in the inspection regulations, but the North side said that this runs counter to the principle of the basic agreement and did not make any compromises.

Our side also insisted that based on reciprocity both sides must equally carry out inspections, but the North side said that according to the principle of simultaneously dissipating misgivings about the North's nuclear development, the South side must allow inspections of all U.S. bases in South Korea and the North side should only allow inspection of areas that are of international concern.

A National Unification Board official who observed the meeting said it appears North Korea is trying to allow inspection only by the International Atomic Energy Agency and not mutual inspection. [end recording]

Envoy Comments on North's Plutonium Production

SK2605024992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States do not believe North Korea when it says that it extracted plutonium solely for peaceful purposes and the amount was too small to produce an atomic bomb, South Korean Ambassador to the United States Hyon Hong-chu said Tuesday.

"The experimental production of plutonium can immediately lead to mass production of weapons-grade plutonium. We can all remember the Manhattan Project of World War II, where laboratory experiments led directly to mass production that made the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki," Hyon told reporters.

"Nuclear experts in the United States say it is dangerous to believe North Korea's explanation that the amount is too small to be concerned," he said.

The ambassador briefly returned to Seoul Saturday for "policy reports" to President No Tae-u on Seoul-Washington relations in the final six months of his presidency.

"I briefed the president on current and future issues, which I cannot reveal in detail at this time," he said.

Washington calls Seoul's strategy successful so far, but emphasizes that South Korea should not be satisfied with the present situation and should push for inter-Korean mutual nuclear inspection, Hyon said.

"The United States' chief policy after the cold war is non- proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction. This is its priority no. 1, and the United States does not see North Korea's nuclear problem as just a regional issue," the envoy said.

There was no change in the two countries' opinion that challenge inspection through an inter-Korean nuclear inspection regime would further support the regular inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and thus was necessary to completely erase the suspicion against Pyongyang's nuclear capability, said Hyon.

Talks With Japan on Trade Deficit Scheduled

SK2605053692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan will hold working-level negotiations Wednesday and Thursday in Seoul on drawing up an "action plan" to rectify Seoul's growing trade deficit with Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Kim Yong-kyu, director-general of the ministry's International Trade Bureau, heads the South Korean delegation. Shigeo Takenaka, deputy director-general of Asian affairs at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, is his counterpart.

The working-level talks precede a working-level meeting of the Korea-Japan trade and industrial technology cooperation committee in June, when the two countries are to agree on the final version of the action plan.

President No Tae-u and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu agreed in a summit in January that both countries will work together to rectify the tipping trade imbalance in Tokyo's favor.

Korea recorded an 8.7 billion-U.S.-dollar deficit with Japan last year, close to its entire 9.6 billion-dollar deficit for the period. It was nearly a twofold increase from a 4 billion-dollar deficit in 1989.

Seoul is urging establishment of a foundation for science and technology cooperation, formation of a forum between business leaders, expansion of the Japanese market for Korean products, and improved conditions for technology transfer.

Tokyo has reportedly rejected the proposal for the foundation, saying there is no precedent in Japan for such a bilateral group.

Democratic Party Nominates Kim Tae-chung

SK2605081692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0746 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, an indomitable oppositionist who has been kidnapped, jailed, sentenced to death and exiled during more than 30 years of political life, was elected presidential nominee by the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] on Tuesday.

With 2,348 delegates to the party national convention casting secret ballots, Kim Tae-chung received 1,413 votes, or 60.2 percent, beating rival Yi Ki-taek, who managed to garner 925 votes, or 39.4 percent. There were 10 invalid votes.

The 67-year-old politician will thus run for president for the third time in his life in the December election, competing against the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] Kim Yong-sam, tycoon-turned-politician Chong Chu-yong, leader of the Unification National Party, and Rep. Pak Chan-chong, head of the New Political Reform Party.

Prior to Kim's nomination, the DP solidified its ground for the presidential election by electing Kim Won-ki as party secretary general and eight other members of the Supreme Council. They are Kim Sang-hyon, Kim Yong-pae, Cho Se-hyong, Pak Yong-suk, Chong Tae- chol from the Kim Tae-chung faction, and Kim Chung-kil and Yi Pu- yong from the Yi Ki-taek faction.

Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek were elected to the 10-member Supreme Council Monday.

The party will reshuffle the top three party posts within this week and go into negotiations with the DLP for the opening of the National Assembly. The negotiations are expected to be tough sailing as the two parties are far apart on the issue of the local elections, informed sources said.

Accepting the nomination, Kim Tae-chung said that if he won the presidential election, he would erase regionalism by employing all able persons, regardless of their native provinces, and carrying out balanced industrial development throughout the country.

"I will form a cabinet supported by the whole nation," Kim declared.

"I'm prepared and I'm able to resolve all problems related to political, economic, social, diplomatic and unification issues if I am given a chance.

"I'll dedicate all of me to win the presidency," Kim told the cheering delegates.

Kim said he would also right the nation's economy, which he said had been messed up by the ruling party.

Korea, he predicted, would be able to join the ranks of eight most advanced nations within his tenure. He would introduce an economic policy that fostered small- and medium-sized enterprises, realize a society of law and order and righteousness, and unify the country in three stages.

Before adjourning the two-day national convention, the DP adopted a resolution, declaring that the administration of President No Tae-u had lost all ability to govern the country.

History and the people ardently desired the arrival of a true democratic government following 30 years of military dictatorship, the resolution said.

Democratization, unification of the country, economic development and social welfare were the four major issues, the DP said in its resolution, that it would dedicate itself to if its standard bearer were elected president.

It vowed to help overcome the mistrust among different classes of society by instituting "ethical politics" and to realize unification of the country within this century.

Burma

PRC To Construct New International Airport

BK2505144392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Mr. Liang Feng, ambassador of the People's Republic of China [PRC] to the Union of Myanmar [Burma], called on Lieutenant General Tin Tun, minister for transport and labor, at the minister's office this afternoon at 1430.

At the meeting, cordial and frank discussions were held on matters relating to the constructions of a new international airport in Burma and the new international airport hotel in cooperation with the PRC's construction ministry and Burma's transportation ministry, and the extension of air traffic.

More Political Prisoners, Convicts Gain Amnesty

11 Released From Rangoon Jail

BK1605084492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] U Chan Aye, who served as a member of the Central Executive Committee of the National League for Democracy and against whom action was taken and detained in May 1991, has been released from the Insein Central Jail today in accordance with the Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

Similarly, four women and and six young men against whom action was taken in accordance with the existing laws and who were serving sentences were also released from the Insein Central Jail today in accordance with the Declaration No. 11/92 of the SLORC.

Responsible officials from the Directorate of the Defense Services Intelligence yeterday visited the Insein Central Jail and met with those who were to be released and read out to them the Declaration No. 11/92 of the SLORC issued on 24 April and the order of the home affairs minister regarding the reduction of jail terms imposed.

Those to be released were then permitted to meet their families and were allowed to leave.

More Convicts Freed in Mandalay

BK2305103292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] As a reward from the state, a second group of 277 convicted persons who have worked for national defense hand-in-hand with members of the Defense Services were released from the Central Jail in Mandalay at 0800 on 21 May. The released persons, who have been working at labor camps in Mandalay Division, had their sentences commuted under Article 401/1 of the Criminal Procedure Code and were granted amnesty.

U Kyaw Tun, director of prisons of Mandalay Division, explained the gesture of reward by the state and the order of the minister of home affairs to the convicted persons and Police Director Yee Than, who is a member of the Mandalay Division Law and Order Restoration Council, and delivered words of advice to 277 convicted persons. The released convicts were sent home after prison director U Kyaw Tun and prison authorities greeted them.

Military, Kokang Leaders Meet on Drug Suppression

BK2505123392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Major General Maung Thint, deputy chairman of Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of northeast military command, held a coordination meeting with leaders of Kokang nationals on the suppression, prevention, and destruction of narcotic drugs in the Kokang region in Northern Shan State, at the command headquarters meeting hall on 20 May at 0930.

The meeting was attended by acting Tactical Commander Lieutenant Colonel Soe Myint and staff officers; Kokang leaders U Pheung Kyar Shin, U (Mi Tung Lian), U (Yan Mu Lian), U Pheung Kyar Hpu, U (Yan Haeani), U (Pe Tauk Sein), and other Kokang leaders.

At the coordination meeting the commander said it was clear that Kokang nationals, of their own initiative, have been performing narcotic drugs suppression and prevention activities particularly in the Kokang border region. The commander thanked the leaders for their roles in the seizure and handling of narcotic drugs prevention and suppression activities. He then urged the leaders and Kokang nationals to continue with their suppression efforts to completely eradicate narcotic drug activities in the Kokang region. He explained that the state had already provided assistance in the form of rice and salt for former poppy farmers who have stopped cultivating poppy, and requests for more assistance had already been proposed. The commander said that continuing broader crop substitution and livestock breeding activities, ideal farms for former poppy farmers and local people will be formed with assistance provided by experts and technicians, and said the state will also provide development assistance.

U Pheung Kyar Shin, on behalf of the Kokang leaders, explained that they will distinctly carry out their narcotic drug prevention and suppression activities in the Kokang region under the leadership of the state government. He explained that if news about secret narcotic drug refineries is received, the refineries will be destroyed. He said that information will also be gathered in order to prevent them from being created. He then remarked that assistance will also be requested if there are any difficulties. Finally, the Kokang leader stated that all-out efforts will be made for narcotic drugs prevention and suppression activities, so that particular activities will be demonstrated in practice. Next, U (Yan Mu Lian) explained that they will strictly adhere to their leader's remarks.

After discussions by those who attended the meeting, the commander thanked those who took part in the discussions and explained that the state government is doing all it can for regional development. He finally urged those responsible to perform particular narcotic drugs suppression and prevention activities as discussed above. The ceremony ended later.

Cambodia

Mixed Military Working Group Holds Meeting

BK2505133792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] Level-Two held its meeting last week in the presence of General Loridon.

According to an officer of the UN Military Affairs Coordination Commission who was present there, the meeting discussed various issues, including the cease-fire violations, the marking of minefields, and the implementation of the decisions taken during the 17th meeting of the MMWG Level-One—such as the registration of troops and arms, the training of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] automobile and aircraft personnel, the opening of the zones under the control of all factions, and the prohibition to harass all Cambodian factions' troop movements toward cantonment areas.

The same officer also stressed that the meeting was tense as the Khmer Rouge representatives continued to avoid taking responsibility for the violations they had committed.

Gen. Sanderson [as heard] called the Khmer Rouge violations against the positions of the Armed Forces of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] at O Ti and their shellings on 14 May against Kdol Ta Hen Village in Battambang Province the most serious, unacceptable violations.

Gen. Loridon stressed to the meeting participants that the work of the second stage could be carried out only if the cease-fire were strictly respected. He also urged the Khmer Rouge to authorize UNTAC forces liberal access to their zones since the other three factions have already been behaving correctly and only the Khmer Rouge have failed in that respect. At the same time, the general also asked the Khmer Rouge the following question: When the other factions were proceeding with the regrouping of their forces, what were Divisions 320 and 417 and other Khmer Rouge units doing?

Concerning the successive violations by the Khmer Rouge faction, the representative of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] expressed deep regrets at these ill-willed activities of the Khmer Rouge, who have directed them not only against the CPAF but also against the KPNLF and FUNCINPEC forces. He urged the Khmer Rouge faction to put an immediate end to their activities and asked UNTAC to take thorough and effective preventive measures.

Meanwhile, in a bid to bring success to Phase Two, the CPAF representative proposed that all factions should stop using unfounded excuses and charges to stall the peace process.

When all factions were reporting about the outcome of the minefield identification operations, Gen. Loridon urged the Khmer Rouge faction not to plant new mines while the signs were being placed to mark the existing fields.

The meeting concluded at 2030 [no date given].

Investigation Into Cease-Fire Breaches Urged

BK2405012892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 May 92

[Station commentary: "It Is Necessary To Conduct an Elaborate Investigation To Find Out Which Faction Has Breached the Cease-Fire Agreement"]

[Text] On 18 May, representatives of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] in the Mixed Military Working Group gave General Michel Loridon, deputy army commander of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], a full account of the attacks by Phnom Penh troops against the NADK in Bavel, Battambang Province, in violation of a cease-fire agreement.

We still remember that the dreadful events on the Kompong Thom battlefield were triggered by the Phnom Penh troops, which included Vietnamese soldiers. They raided and killed people and smashed the NADK, which in turn was forced to counterattack in self-defense and to protect the people from being slaughtered by the Vietnamese and Phnom Penh troops.

Now the same events in Bavel are reoccurring. This is evidence that the Phnom Penh faction continues to stir up trouble, causing clashes to again flare up to allow the Vietnamese and itself to dodge implementation of the Paris accord, then wreck the accord in the end.

In this situation, UNTAC's military wing is advised to maintain its neutral role and to conduct a just and elaborate investigation into the truce violation to determine which faction actually breached the cease-fire.

We wish to make clear that the Phnom Penh faction should stop fomenting trouble and unequivocally execute the cease-fire agreement; otherwise it will be held totally responsible for any serious armed clashes in the future.

14-19 May Khmer Rouge Truce Violations Alleged

BK2305102492 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 23 May (SPK)—According to the commission for coordination of military affairs with the

United Nations, the Khmer Rouge on 14 May opened fire on four trucks on the road linking Stung Treng and Ratanakiri Provinces in the northeastern part of the country, killing three passengers and destroying two vehicles.

On 19 May, 20 Polpotist soldiers from Division 616 stole 224 cattle in areas south of Boeng Real, Prey Reang Te, and Prey Sneng Krabei.

On 18 May, 70 soldiers from Division 980 equipped with H-107 rocket launchers and 75-mm cannons attacked government positions at Pongro Leu in Chikreng District of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province. And on the same day, the Khmer Rouge attacked government troops at Chhuk in Kompong Thom Province.

The government forces of the State of Cambodia recently uncovered many Khmer Rouge arms caches in Sambo District of Kompong Thom Province.

And in Bavel District of Battambang Province, the Khmer Rouge were sighted moving many of their artillery pieces.

Khmer Rouge Sets Conditions for Phase Two

BK2305032292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 May 92

["Communique from the Press Department of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The settlement of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia is not hard in the least, providing all respect and implement the Paris accord unequivocally. The Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces have taken note of the statement issued on 9 May by the military representative of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], which says that the second phase of the cease-fire will start on 13 June 1992.

The Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces want the process of Phase Two to be executed speedily so Cambodia can recover genuine peace and independence; and we are of the opinion that should all unequivocally, meticulously, and correctly respect and implement the Paris 23 October 1991 accord in keeping with the true significance of its terms, the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia can be resolved without difficulty in this second phase.

To allow Phase Two of the cease-fire to proceed, it is necessary to account for the actual significance of the accord that has to be implemented without fail as follows:

1. Military aspect:

a. UNTAC should completely and unequivocally deploy its observers and peacekeeping forces as well as the four Cambodian parties at the designated points along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border according to the scheduled timeframe to verify the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces; and

b. Two weeks prior to the start of the second phase—that is, on 31 May—the Vietnamese should provide UNTAC with detailed information on the strength, organization, and positions of their forces in Cambodia; a detailed list of all categories of their weapons and ammunition and where armaments and war equipment are kept; and their plans on troop withdrawals, including previous and current plans, by clearly indicating the roads and border passes used for the pullout and the dates when the Vietnamese forces crossed and will cross out of Cambodia as stipulated in Article 6, Annex 2 of the accord.

The above two points are the most important ones and should be implemented before other clauses.

c. One week prior to the beginning of phase two—that is, on 6 June—regrouping centers should be arranged for the four Cambodian parties' armies. Note on the arrangement of the regrouping centers: Two weeks following the start of the second phase—that is, on 27 June—the four Cambodian parties' troops should be regrouped and confined in camps to be verified and demobilized by UNTAC and the four Cambodian parties from 70 percent until 100 percent in full as specified in Articles 3 and 5 of the accord. This point should be executed after, but not before, the first two points to verify that the Vietnamese with both their forces and war material

2. Civilian aspect: The significance of the civilian aspect is clearly defined in the Paris accord as follows:

a. Article 3, Chapter 3 of the accord stipulates: The Supreme National Council [SNC] is the unique legitimate body and source of authority representing, throughout the transitional period, national sovereignty, independence, and national unity of Cambodia. There is no other authority. As such, the SNC has all kinds of roles and authority during the entire transition. Only with the SNC having the veritable role and authority in Cambodia can the process of implementing the cease-fire in the second phase be carried out. On the contrary, if the SNC has neither role nor authority, the Phase-Two cease-fire cannot be executed with certainty.

B. UNTAC and the SNC have the rights to hold discussions to find ways to run, administer, and organize the following five main ministries: 1) The Ministry of National Defense, 2) The Ministry of Interior and National Security, 3) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4) The Ministry of Finance, and 5) The Ministry of Information. This means that the SNC and UNTAC have all the rights and authority to control and organize those ministries across Cambodia. As for old and new staff who carry out technical tasks at offices, they are only the working machine that should come under the supervision and organization of the SNC and UNTAC. By no means has the Vietnamese-installed regime in Phnom Penh had the right to run those ministries.

This is the true significance of the Paris accord that all—including UNTAC, the SNC, and the country signatories of the accord—should implement correctly and unequivocally. Only with the successful application of the above-mentioned military and civilian aspects can the cease-fire in the second phase be observed. We believe that the settlement of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia is not that difficult providing all, specifically the Vietnamese aggressors and some of their partisans, respect and implement unambiguously and correctly the accord in keeping with its true significance.

If, on the contrary, ill-intended individuals continue to maneuver to change, modify the accord—they do not maintain their neutral roles and they want to eliminate the issue of the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia by raising only the issue of controlling Cambodians, specifically Democratic Kampuchea, to hinder the verification of the Vietnamese presence—the war will certainly continue to rage. The Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces can never agree to that, no matter what.

UNTAC Chief Calls on Prince Sihanouk 23 May

BK2605074092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] On the morning of 23 May, His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk in order to inform the prince of the process of UNTAC's work in Cambodia.

H.E. Yasushi Akashi told the prince about his objective and measures to implement the second phase of the cease-fire defined in the Paris agreement on peace in Cambodia in order to speed up the process to end the Cambodian conflict and to bring peace to the Cambodian people.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed his delight and warmly hailed H.E. Yasushi Akashi's capability in successfully leading the UNTAC mission.

UNTAC Forces Said Deployed in Kompong Thom

BK2505081792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has already deployed its forces, which recently arrived in Kompong Thom Province, at various important townships and points in the province. A group of 150 UNTAC soldiers have been stationed in Stoung District, Kompong Thom Province, since early May, and in mid-May this year, the UNTAC dispatched its forces to Popok and Kraya in Prasat Balang District, and so on.

On the afternoon of 13 May, two UNTAC representatives in Kompong Thom Province held a working session with three-star Lieutenant General Chieng Am, chairman of the province's party committee and people's committee; Un Noeng, vice chairman of the provincial party and first vice chairman of the provincial people's committee. The talks, which lasted for nearly two hours, focused on the issue of the Khmer Rouge breaching the Paris peace accord by forcing thousands of families of refugees in O Trav camp to cross into Kompong Thom Province unofficially and without verification from the United Nations, and the issue of deploying UNTAC troops in a number of areas, such as Ta Aok Village, Po Commune, Prasat Sambo District—which is adjacent to Sandan District—and the township of Prasat Sambo District.

It is worth noting that on 12 May, a group of soldiers from the 55th Khmer Rouge battalion, Division 802, led by Yit and Ret, drafted over 100 people from Chrang Kraham, Ta Paong, O Sala, Anlung Prasat, and Sanda Villages, Kompong Svay Commune, Kompong Svay District, to ship their ammunition and armaments—consisting of AT-60 mortars, B-40 and B-40.5 rockets, and 300 SK rifles—from Kon K'ek Village to [words indistinct].

UN Envoy: Khmer Rouge Blocking Peace Process

BK2605134392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 26 May 92

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, May 26 (AFP)—The United Nations special envoy to Cambodia accused the Khmer Rouge on Tuesday of obstructing the peace process and warned them against playing for time.

"The Khmer Rouge has so far failed to take (the) steps which must be taken if the (Paris peace) agreement is to be carried out," said Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), after a Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting that lasted nearly four hours.

The SNC, which comprises all four previously warring factions, is to represent Cambodian sovereignty pending elections in May 1993, under a U.N.-brokered peace accord signed in October last year.

Akashi told reporters he had called on all four factions, "especially ... the Khmer Rouge," to meet conditions necessary to execute the second phase of the peace plan, envisaging the cantonment, demobilisation and disarmament of the factions.

He listed the 12 conditions, notably including free access for UNTAC troops in all areas, an end to ceasefire violations, specific information on troops and weapons of all the factions and precise demarcation of minefields.

Akashi said he gave the Khmer Rouge until the beginning of next week to indicate what measures they had taken to satisfy those conditions and "warned (them) strongly against failure to comply."

The Khmer Rouge are accused of refusing to meet the conditions on grounds that the United Nations must first verify the 1989 withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia—an argument diplomats view as a stalling tactic.

Hanoi officially withdrew the last of its troops in September 1989, a decade after they invaded neighbouring Cambodia to topple the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge from power and install a pro- Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh.

"I am ready to exercise my right" to take necessary steps to promote the peace process should its obstruction continue, Akashi said.

At the start of the SNC meeting, Prince Norodom Sihanouk—noting his inability to resolve differences among council members—appealed to Akashi to exercise that right.

The UNTAC mandate empowers the U.N. envoy to take such decisions in case of deadlock among the factions, which also include followers of Prince Sihanouk, those of former Prime Minister Son Sann and the Phnom Penh government.

But Akashi added that he would prefer to see the factions work out an agreement among themselves.

The second phase of the peace accord would go ahead as scheduled on June 13 because otherwise the whole process "would be in a very serious, critical difficulty," he said.

"I told (Khmer Rouge leader) Khieu Samphan that he was almost too late," Akashi said.

The second phase of the peace process, leading to free elections next year, is crucial to ending 13 years of civil war in Cambodia, in which the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge were the military mainstay of the guerrilla resistance.

UNTAC's military commander, Australian Brigadier General John Sanderson, said 4,500 U.N. peacekeeping troops, known as "blue berets," were already in Cambodia and their number would increase to 12,000 before the second phase of the peace accord took effect.

The agreement initially envisaged the deployment of 15,900 U.N. troops in Cambodia.

SRV, Phnom Penh Faction 'Mixed' Among People

BK2405025092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] According to reports from various sources, the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh faction have now recruited their former partisan soldiers, disguised them as civilians, and mixed them among the people in villages. Those elements are posing as various merchants.

All those elements have been taught special combat tactics, espionage, methods to carry out assassination and to use poisons, and so on. Some were sent to receive training in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, and earlier others had even been sent to the former Soviet Union and East Germany.

The reports add that immediately after the four Cambodian parties dissolve their armies, those elements will attack the resistance forces with guns and ammunition that they have secretly stockpiled everywhere.

Other reports say the Vietnamese aggressors have so far actively drafted people and forced them to receive combat training and forced others to learn military practices. Then they have confined those hastily-trained soldiers in camps—to replace old soldiers in hiding—for the verification by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and Supreme National Council. The Vietnamese aggressors' plans have already been completed in some areas and are in progress in other areas.

This action clearly demonstrates that the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh faction do not respect the Paris accord in the least. Before they maneuvered to block the existence of the accord and now with the presence of the accord and UNTAC, they continue to carry out their maneuvers to shatter the accord.

The Cambodian people in both rural and urban areas are furious at the Vietnamese aggressors' and their partisans' plans and activities. They are resolved to further vigorously uphold solidarity to decimate the criminal, foul plays of the Vietnamese aggressors and their accomplices until the Cambodian nation and people recover peace within an independent Cambodia via the correct application of every aspect of the Paris accord.

Sihanouk Meets French Businessmen's Delegation

BK2405094792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, granted an audience to a delegation of French businessmen led by Mr. (Jean Pierre Brat), mayor of the French city of Montreuil, at Khemarin Palace on the afternoon of 21 May. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. (Tri Senghong), vice chairman of the Phnom Penh People's Committee.

After enthusiastically welcoming the French delegation, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk briefed it on the current political and economic situation in Cambodia, saying Cambodia has now broadened its free-market economy and allowed for investments by a great many national and foreign companies. The prince stressed that along with promoting the peace process, Cambodia is currently in a stage of restoring and developing the nation as well.

Hor Namhong Interviewed on Thailand, Politics

BK2305105192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 May 92

[AFP corrrespondent's interview with Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council, on 19 May, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is Your Excellency's reaction to the current events in Thailand?

[Hor Namhong] The issue can cause some difficulties to tourists, businessmen, and those who are in transit in Bangkok.

[Correspondent] Should the Thai Government weaken, can Thailand adopt a new resolution to settle the Cambodian problem?

[Hor Namhong] I believe no new resolution will be introduced. Instead, the Paris accord and the tripartite memorandum signed by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Thailand should continue to be respected.

[Correspondent] Suppose there is no dialogue partner from Bangkok on [words indistinct] verification along the border, will there be difficulties for the United Nations?

[Hor Namhong] I don't think there will be problems. Despite the events in Thailand, the UN will ensure its checkpoints. I do not believe that Thais, with the events occurring in their own country, will breach the Paris accord.

[Correspondent] I often hear Thais say that the Thai presence in Cambodia is growing. What do you think?

[Hor Namhong] We should have economic and trade cooperation not only with Thailand but also with all countries for Cambodia's interests and economic development. However, I wish to make clear that whatever the size of investment needed, we have to absolutely preserve our economic independence—political independence is inseparable from economic independence. This is the general rule applied to every country, not only to Thailand. We should protect this [word indistinct] benefit.

[Correspondent] On internal politics. What should be done to avoid possible danger from the Khmer Rouge after the elections?

[Hor Namhong] We should completely eradicate corruption. In fact, we are of the opinion that we are not able to achieve this 100 percent, but we will do our utmost and take drastic action against corrupt practices.

[Correspondent] China seems not to have made any changes in its stance and in all forums. They appear to continue defend the Khmer Rouge. What do you think?

[Hor Namhong] I firmly believe that China wants to see all parties implement the Paris accord. However, China should ponder over its role as a permanent member of the UN Security Council in charge of the UNTAC operation and responsible to the Paris accord and all its legal processes.

[Correspondent] Do think that 13 June will be the start of the second phase?

[Hor Namhong] That is the date of the official cease-fire to be supervised by the United Nations. Troops will be regrouped and demobilized. The second phase can only be effective if all areas throughout Cambodia are widely and generally opened for verification by UNTAC. Otherwise, there will be no equality and balance in the implementation of the accord. In addition, I want the UN civilian forces, especially the human rights groups, to reach the Khmer Rouge zones and other regions and not only SOC [State of Cambodia]-controlled areas.

[Correspondent] To my knowledge, General Sanderson has decided that 20 May is when a list of troops and armaments should be presented. Is this true?

[Hor Namhong] Yes. It is 20 May.

[Correspondent] Which parties have already submitted the lists?

[Hor Namhong] I don't know. However, our party is ready.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, should the United Nations start Phase Two if the Khmer Rouge do not hand in the lists?

[Hor Namhong] I am also wondering. Can anything be done without the lists and free access? All in all, I suspect it is likely that the Khmer Rouge will not change their stance.

[Correspondent] Vietnam frequently reaffirms that it will respect the Paris accord. What do you think?

[Hor Namhong] Vietnam can do nothing but this.

[Correspondent] Are Vietnamese and Cambodian relations at present still special or distant?

[Hor Namhong] The relations are neither too special nor distant. They are the bonds between states. We cannot just turn to Thailand and become hostile toward Vietnam. What we need is economic and trade cooperation on an equal footing.

Hor Namhong Welcomes Thailand's Return to Peace

BK2605063692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0410 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 26—Foreign Minister of the State of Cambodia Hor Namhong expressed relief Monday over the return of peace to neighbouring Thailand.

Hor Namhong said the resignation of former Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun was "inevitable".

Suchinda officially announced his resignation in a television broadcast Sunday, following clashes last week between Thai security forces and demonstrators calling for the unelected prime minister to step down.

As many as 1,000 protesters are feared to have died.

"We need a stable Thailand for the Cambodian peace process to take place under the best conditions", Hor Namhong told AFP.

He was referring to the U.N. backed process set in motion in October when Cambodia's warring factions signed an accord bringing an end to 13 years of civil war. The United Nations is currently undertaking its biggest-ever repatriation programme of some 370,000 Cambodian refugees in camps in Thailand.

"A peaceful political situation in our neighbouring country is also a necessity for the development of economic relations between the two countries", he added.

San Soubert's, Ieng Muli's Election Denied

BK2605075392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Our Voice of the Khmer's newsroom has received a report confirming that the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP] has not yet elected the vice chairman and secretary general of the BLDP, contrary to what some newspapers have reported.

Thailand's English newspaper the NATION on 23 May quoted an AFP report as saying that Messrs. San Soubert and Ieng Muli have been elected respectively as vice chairman and secretary general of the BLDP. But a report from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] stressed that the BLDP, which was formed at noon on 22 May 1992 with His Excellency Son Sann as chairman, has not yet elected its vice chairman and secretary general. The KPNLF will continue its work of waiting to see whether the election in Cambodia will be held correctly, in line with the Paris agreement. The KPNLF has not yet dissolved itself.

Another report from the KPNLF also said that in addition to the important two-day congress, the KPNLF held a meeting on human rights violations in Cambodia at its office in Phnom Penh under the chairmanship of H.E. Son Sann, BLDP chairman and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. This meeting was held after the second KPNLF congress in Phnom Penh, to declare the formation of the BLDP, which 8,000 members attended.

This meeting was held after the KPNLF received reports on the violations of human rights in provinces and the rights of many monks and people who attended the KPNLF congress. Human rights violations were committed in various forms, such as by arresting monks and people, forcing them to sign confession forms or petitions, and threatening them.

The meeting set up a committee to protect the victims, investigate the facts, and contact the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in order to resolve this matter.

Ranariddh Interviewed on NAM, Peace Process

BK2505105192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 May 92

[Interview with Prince Norodom Ranariddh by unidentified station correspondent on 18 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a correspondent of the Voice of the Khmer [VOK]. My respects to your highness the chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia.

First of all, I would like to thank your highness for this interview. Recently, your highness led a delegation of the SNC to attend the ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries in Jakarta, Indonesia. Would you please give a full account of the significance and outcome of this first participation in the nonaligned meeting by a Cambodian delegation?

[Ranariddh] First of all, I, Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of FUNCINPEC and member of the SNC, would like to thank you, the VOK correspondent, for coming here to interview me upon my return from Bali, Indonesia, leading the SNC delegation to attend the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau.

I would like to take this auspicious occasion to pay respect to all venerable monks whom I worship and to all compatriots and listeners inside our Cambodia whom I thought of very much.

I am honored to inform all of you about the outcome of the meeting in Bali, Indonesia, as follows:

As you said just now, our Cambodia, after being absent unintentionally—I must stress that this is an unintentional absence—for 13 years, has returned to attend the meeting as a member of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], a movement of the nonaligned countries. I would like to stress to our respected listeners that there is no problem about Cambodia's membership. Upon our arrival, all countries welcomed our return.

Moreover, you should not forget that our respected Samdech Euv [Prince Father] His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, was a cofounder of the Nonaligned Movement together with historic leaders, such as Tito of Yugoslavia, Nehru of India, Sukarno of Indonesia, and Gamel Nasser of Egypt, and that he is the only cofounder of the Nonaligned Movement who is still alive. This is an important point. I must recall further that his royal highness has signed the Constitution of the Nonaligned Movement [words indistinct]. This is why when we returned, all countries warmly welcomed us.

In his speech, Indonesian Foreign Minister His Excellency Ali Alatas warmly welcomed us. He mentioned my name very clearly as Prince Norodom Ranariddh who led a united Cambodian delegation back to the Nonaligned Movement. He also recalled the important historic role played by our Prince Father within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement as well as his role in Cambodia.

At the same time, in my capacity as leader of a unified SNC delegation, I met the ministers who headed the delegations from the following countries:

North Korea, Vietnam, Mali, Tunisia, Tanzania, Algeria, Egypt, Senegal, Burkina Faso in Africa, Romania, and Laos.

They all warmly welcomed us and expressed their hope that we would play an important role as in the past to strengthen and promote the movement of the nonaligned countries. They also asked me to convey their best regards to the prince father. In particular, many African delegates told me that the prince father is very popular in Africa and asked me to convey their best regards and support to the prince father. They also warmly welcomed us and the fact that after experiencing a grave tragedy, destruction, and war for over 23 years, our Cambodia has made much progress toward peace.

Many of these countries, such as Indonesia and Tunisia, have sent their peacekeeping forces to our Cambodia to join in the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Moreover, I met personally with beloved President Suharto of Indonesia. On that occasion, I conveyed best regards from the prince father to the president and informed him of the prince father's preparation to attend the so-called summit meeting in Jakarta this coming September. In conclusion, on behalf of the entire Cambodian nation, I expressed deepest gratitude to Indonesia for sending troops to Cambodia within the framework of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and informed him that the Cambodian people welcomed the presence of the Indonesian troops. The president also informed me that Indonesia would always pay attention to the 100 percent, perfect, and correct implementation of all important points of the agreement on Cambodia. Moreover, Indonesia has prepared another battalion of 850 troops ready for sending to our Cambodia.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that in a draft document to be considered by heads of state who will attend the coming nonaligned summit to be held in September in Jakarta, it is clearly written in French, which can be translated into Cambodian as follows:

In Cambodia, implementation of the Paris agreement for a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodia problem has created stability and a new basis for peace and cooperation in Southeast Asia. All Cambodian parties have displayed their determination and promises to respect all important points of the agreement. However, the vigorous support of the international community, of all countries, for the earliest dispatch and deployment of a sufficient number of UNTAC forces is necessary to the successful implementation of the agreement.

This is a correct stance which was warmly welcomed by our Cambodian and all other delegations. It is the only guarantee for the successful implementation of the agreement as well as for the future of our Cambodia.

[Correspondent] Concerning the peace process in Cambodia, UNTAC announced recently that the second phase of the cease-fire would start at the beginning of June. I would like to ask your highness to please comment on this second phase of the cease-fire.

[Ranariddh] Concerning the implementation of the second phase of the cease-fire and the important points regarding the military issue mentioned in the agreement on Cambodia, here is my personal opinion:

First of all, I would like to inform you that UNTAC, particularly General Sanderson who is in charge of the military affair, announced that implementation of this phase would begin on 13 June 1992. Our party which attended the meeting on the implementation of this second phase stressed the following:

First, we were very glad because in our opinion, although there were violations of the cease-fire no matter from whichever side, still the UNTAC must take measures to implement each phase as mentioned in the Cambodia peace agreement. This means that we must not delay implementation. There should be no delay because our goal is to proceed toward a free election in May 1993.

Second, we stressed that we, the National Army of independent Cambodia, were ready to gather our combatants and armament to put them in places arranged for us by the United Nations. We were ready to begin this process as of 13 June. However, we insisted that before putting the Khmer in cages, UNTAC should verify the presence of the foreign troops, meaning the Vietnamese troops. The party of DK [Democratic Kampuchea] also made this important request.

In response to our party's concrete proposal, Mr. Sanderson promised to set up additional UN checkpoints along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border, along the major roads stretching from Laos and Vietnam into Cambodia, and in the eastern part of Cambodia. We said that if he accepted just the western checkpoints while leaving the eastern part, it would not be right to incarcerate the Khmer in cages. Mr. Sanderson clearly understood this matter and promised to set up seven more UN checkpoints.

I would like to stress that another point in our proposal was in line with the determination of our FUNCINPEC congress held on 29 February 1992 as well as with the resolution of the UN Security Council's resolution dated 28 February which proposed that the four Cambodian parties must have a determination to demobilize their armed forces 100 percent prior to the election and to disarm them and abolish their ammunition 100 percent. This is an important issue because if the United Nations correctly verifies the total withdrawal of foreign forces, that is Vietnamese forces, in my opinion, no Cambodian faction should be allowed to carry arms which will only enable it to put pressure on the compatriots who must be allowed to vote freely. If 30 percent of the armed forces are maintained, those who carry arms to the election can claim that they are from the remaining 30 percent.

Another important problem is robbery. Due to these arms, robberies were often committed against our innocent Cambodian people and insecurity created along the border and inside the country.

This third point in our proposal calling for 100 percent disarmament was made because I know that Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia. The Phnom Penh side and Vietnam replied that there have been no more Vietnamese since September 1989, but the reports I received said that, first, Vietnamese military presence has continued to exist and, second, Vietnamese troops have disguised themselves as Cambodian soldiers. For this reason, all forces should be demobilized and disarmed 100 percent so that foreign forces can no longer disguise themselves as Cambodian soldiers.

This is our proposal. I have stressed time and again that FUNCINPEC is not the only one to make this proposal. Even the prince father said during his visit in Ampil that we should disarm and demobilize all forces 100 percent. I would like to stress that in its resolution adopted on 28 February 1992, the UN Security Council clearly appealed for the four Cambodian factions to dissolve their forces and disarm them prior to the election, that is before the historical period when our Cambodian people can decide their destiny through a free and fair election to be organized by the United Nations.

Thus, I would like to stress that, as FUNCINPEC and the National Army of Independent Cambodia, I am very glad that the United Nations has made a plan to carry out this important matter, which is the second phase of the military issue, in our Cambodia. As patriots and members of the patriotic movement, we are ready to fully implement the important points of the agreement.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that there should be no carelessness in verifying the presence or total withdrawal of foreign forces from our Cambodia. This is because for the past 13 years, our Cambodian patriots in the Sihanoukist National Army now known as the National Army of Independent Cambodia had sacrificed over 2,000 men, 2,400 to 2,500 men, for the cause of salvaging our motherland from the claws of the Vietnamese communist aggressors. Now if we are careless only because the Vietnamese said that they have already withdrawn their troops unilaterally since September 1989, what will happen?

Concerning this matter, I have heard that the deputy envoy of the United Nations to Cambodia, Mr. Sadry, said on 11 May that there seemed to be no Vietnamese in our country. I want to tell you that Mr. Sadry should not have said this, because no correct UN supervision has been carried out yet, how can we say that there are no Vietnamese? This is a dangerous statement with regard to the implementation of the agreement. Only after supervision is carried out completely can we say anything. That is one thing. Second, I, Norodom Ranariddh, want to tell you that if it is true that there is no Vietnamese military presence in our Cambodia, meaning that our Cambodia can survive as an independent country with full sovereignty, I will declare on radio and television that I, Ranariddh, was wrong to think that way and I will apologize. There will be no problem in my doing so. I would dare to do that for the survival and the future of our nation which are the most important points.

Therefore, I would like to send word through our radio that I, Ranariddh, am willing to be at fault if it is for the survival of our Cambodia. However, before saying that Ranariddh is wrong, please be very careful. We Khmer should be very careful. Otherwise, the fruits of our struggle in the past 12 to 13 years might become worthless. I have often said that no one should be afraid to say that Ranariddh lied if what I said was wrong. I, Ranariddh, am willing to be called a liar if it is for the survival of our nation. Ranariddh will be willing to accept that he is wrong if it is true that there are no more Vietnamese in our country. I am willing to admit that I am wrong, if it is so. But this is my duty, as a patriot who used to lead the struggle to liberate our nation and motherland. At that time, our prince father was the sole leader of the struggle for national liberation. Please do not forget that the prince father left our movement only in July 1991 when we, then in Beijing, voted for him to become chairman of the SNC. Earlier, he led the tripartite resistance movement to struggle for national liberation. And please do not forget the sacrifice of lives made by thousands of our patriots.

This is my opinion regarding implementation of the second phase of the military aspects of the agreement.

[Correspondent] Now according to an opinion poll, the Khmer people in general believe that leaving the more than one million Yuon [Vietnamese] civilians in Cambodia will surely create problems during the coming election should there be no specific measures to bar these Yuon from taking part in that election. Moreover, so far there has been one report after another from certain well-informed sources, including those of the UN authorities, contending that Yuon troops are hiding among these Yuon civilians. What is your highness' opinion on this matter?

[Ranariddh] First of all, in my capacity as leader of the Sihanoukist patriotic resistance called FUNCINPEC, I would like to stress to the VOK listeners that the Khmer people, both men and women alike, are keenly interested in the issue that you have most correctly just raised: the illegal presence and settlement in Cambodia, according to you, of more than one million Vietnamese aliens. I would like to stress in this connection that when I visited Bali, Indonesia, at the head of the SNC delegation to the ministerial meeting of the Nonalinged Movement—and I would like to make this very clear—in my capacity not as the delegation's head, but as the chairman of FUNCINPEC and as a Khmer citizen, I reaffirmed the presence of roughly 40,000 Vietnamese troops and of Vietnamese residents that I called illegal people. [preceding two words spoken in English].

On this matter, before giving my opinion on the danger or problems that might take place during the upcoming election, I would like to tell you that after hearing my statement or my interview both Hanoi and Phnom Penh reacted most forcefully. I do not understand why. Toward Phnom Penh, I have not even mentioned the Cambodian People's Party or the State of Cambodia [SOC]. What I said was merely affirming the question of Vietnamese military and civilian presence. They accused me of lying and lacking morality. I would like to ask all venerable Buddhist monks and respected listeners to be my judges. What is morality? Did I try to mobilize the Khmer to hack the Vietnamese residents to death? In my interview, though AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE did not mention it, I stressed that we must not do anything scandalous as during the Republican time. We must never conduct a so-called pogrom. Concerning the military presence, I have again and again reiterated that it is the duty, the obligation of UNTAC to resolve it. I have repeatedly stressed that if UNTAC correctly implemented the accord, this question would have been settled without difficulty. I said there is /the need to first verify the presence of foreign troops./ [passage between slantlines spoken in French] And I said that this presence issue is not a major problem, that it can be settled. I have said that we should let UNTAC settle it and we Khmer must help UNTAC in solving the problem of the Vietnamese residents' presence. As I just said, I stressed that we should not do anything scandalous. We should absolutely refrain from a massacre or a pogrom such as were carried out in the past. We should let the government born of the election solve this problem bilaterally between Cambodia and Vietnam on the basis of both national and international laws. Therefore, I do not lack morality. I made that statement certainly as a man who was responsible before the future of the nation, a man who has led the resistance with the sacrifice of thousands of our patriots to bring back sovereignty and independence for Cambodia.

I take this opportunity to ask all venerable monks and respected compatriots to please be my judges, to determine whether Ranariddh is a liar and an unreliable person or is he not, truthfully.

Moreover, illegal [previous word spoken in English] means unlawful. The Vietnamese foreign minister called on me and asked me why I made such an irresponsible remark by calling his expatriates illegal residents? This single word has made me ponder hard. If he protested that his expatriates are not illegal, does it not mean that a state has already authorized these people to come into the country legally? This is very dangerous. His protest that these people are not illegal has made me think hard. Does it mean that these people are legal? If they are legal, then they are so by what law? Of course, it is the law of the SOC.

Therefore, this is not a problem for us in the future; we will be able to settle it with the Vietnamese side on the basis of morality and in the purview of national and international laws. However, we can raise the problem only by considering these residents illegal, meaning that only when any movement or party that has not given authorization to these people takes power will these Vietnamese residents remain illegal in Cambodia. On the contrary, if a state that has already authorized them by issuing them ID cards and other documents happens to win the votes, these Vietnamese residents would no longer remain residents but would become Cambodian nationals. Thus, whether they are illegal or legal constitutes the duty and obligation of all Cambodian citizens not only to judge and comment, but also to most correctly decide at a time when the United Nations organizes the free election in May 1993. That single word therefore has made me most worried about the future of Cambodia.

Another of your questions concerns the election to be held in the presence of these Vietnamese residents that you have estimated at more than one million. I think this figure is not far from the truth. I myself have said that they are no less than one million. If we multiply 300 Vietnamese entrants per day by 30 days and multiply them by 10 years at least—and now 13 years have elapsed without any control and since those who are already in the country have permission to bring in their relatives and even their friends—is one million too many? Let all venerable persons in the provinces, districts, and villages draw their own conclusions.

Concerning the election, it is not possible for me to make my full opinion known at this moment, for this important point is very well understood by the Cambodian patriotic resistance. I cannot explain all of it here because the so-called electoral laws that the United

Nations has just worked out for us are now being studied by the SNC. We are examining the draft of these electoral laws and have not yet decided on further discussions. If I make my opinion publicly known at this moment it might be dangerous, for I might be accused of something by the United Nations. I only want to make this clear to all esteemed listeners of our radio: FUNCINPEC is paying utmost attention to some important points. There are several points in the draft that, should they be implemented as such, will not guarantee fairness for the Cambodian people in the election. I say this not for the sake of FUNCINPEC alone. We are a party joining the election. We want to win it, of course, but we want to win it not only for FUNCINPEC, but also so that we can serve the superior interests of Cambodia. In these interests there are important points, such as the point about the presence of Vietnamese residents. I would like to stress one more time that Ranariddh, a Buddhist, does not lack in morality. I have made it very clear that we must not do anything that would break national or international laws. We must never violate human rights. We must observe widely recongized international laws.

All that is my opinion, a little detailed, concerning the important question that you have raised on behalf of our radio.

I would like to stress again and again that whether Ranariddh is a liar or not is up to the kind judgment of all venerable monks and all esteemed listeners. I believe in the fairness and good judgment of all Cambodian people.

[Correspondent] In conclusion, I ask your highness to please explain the problems concerning the current implementation of the 23 October accord.

[Ranariddh] Finally, conerning this matter, I would like to inform you that my statement or interview was not a sabotage attempt against the accord as charged. On the contrary, it is part of the 100 percent implementation of the accord which clearly calls for verfying the presence of foreign forces of all categories. It clearly says "of all categories." Therefore, my remark about the presence was in no way a sabotage of the accord. On the contrary, it was only meant to help the United Nations implement the accord correctly and thoroughly so that it will become the sole guarantee for the future of our entire Cambodian nation.

Indonesia

Daily on Significance of U.S. Presence in Region

BK2505120192 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "What kind of U.S. Presence Continues To Be Needed in Asia?"]

[Text] During his journey to Australia to attend the 50th anniversary of the Coral Sea battle, U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney made a stopover in Singapore and Indonesia. The brief visit did revive an issue, which continues to be a relevant one in the Asia-Pacific, including Southeast Asia, namely, the presence of the superpower country in this region.

Speaking at a news conference after he met with President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, the U.S. secretary of defense reiterated the need for his country's presence in the region. However, the U.S. military presence no longer needs bases, which were earlier located in the Philippines. Military technology in the form of aircraft carriers has made land bases obsolete.

Meanwhile, speaking after his meeting with the U.S. secretary of defense, Foreign Minister Alatas said the region prefers to see a U.S. economic presence in the form of economic cooperation, trade, investment, and the transfer of technology. There is a changing perception of the U.S. presence in the Asian-Pacific and Southeast Asian regions due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, which earlier served as a counterbalance to the U.S. presence. The changes are also caused by the growing economic and technological clout of Japan, as well as dynamic developments in the PRC. In Southeast Asia, the changes are marked by peace in Cambodia and Vietnam's policy shift toward economic development.

These changes will also create a new configuration, and in the process, it is feared that a power vacuum will follow, especially on the part of the United States. Countries in the region are fearful of the possible withdrawal of that country from the region because of the absence of the Soviet threat and domestic economic problems. If that happens, there will be new uncertainty as to which country, the PRC or Japan, will replace the United States.

Southeast Asia had a bad experience with Japan during the Pacific War. The situation in the PRC is not fully stable even though those advocating modernization and economic reform hold the upper hand at the moment. Several countries are still skeptical toward a country with a population of more than one billion people.

This is the reason why there is a strong desire in this region for a continued U.S. military presence, which will ensure the smooth process of establishing a new configuration.

A question arises as to whether such U.S. presence will not only provide a kind of certainty, but also actively involve countries in the region. Some people have said that the United States may want to establish a new regional configuration with the PRC and Japan, or perhaps with Japan only.

Another factor worth considering is the future position of ASEAN, which will probably include Vietnam. In this context, the regional strength of Southeast Asia and East Asia will consist of Japan, the PRC, the United States, ASEAN, and probably Korea, if reunification efforts are successful.

Therefore, Minister Alatas's views on the need for a U.S. military and economic presence in the region are indeed relevant. A military presence will be effective only if it is supported by an economic one. This was shown to be true during the Gulf War. Economic consideration is a decisive factor in regional security and stability. Japan has always regarded Southeast Asia as being economically important, and relations between countries in the region are dominated by economic cooperation and competition.

Concerning the United States, Alatas' views are not something new, because that country is now aware of the fact that it must recover from its ailing economy so as to maintain its global military superiority. The United States has therefore continued to pursue its economic-orientated diplomacy.

The current tension between the United States and Japan is basically caused by a conflict of economic interests, instead of political rivalry. Japan has made rapid economic progress and modernization because it has, among other things, effectively used the opportunity of having similar political aspirations as the United States in the past.

Southeast Asian countries need increasing economic cooperation to enable them to develop an independent regional pattern, otherwise one or two countries may dominate the scene.

The fact that a U.S. economic presence is preferred also implies that future conflicts may arise from the friction due to economic interests, such as rivalry to control certain islands reputed to be rich in oil.

Against this background, we have tried to describe what kind of U.S. presence is needed in this region. It should be a presence which will help facilitate the establishment of a new regional configuration as well as accelerate the transformation of countries in this region into industrialized ones.

Government Not To Deport Stranded Chinese

BK2505131792 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 15 May 92 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia will not deport thousands of Chinese citizens who have been stranded here for over two decades after Jakarta and Beijing froze their diplomatic ties in the 1960s, Minister of Justice Ismail Saleh said yesterday.

"If they want to be Indonesian citizens, they can apply for citizenship in accordance with the existing procedures," Ismail told reporters after installing new officials at his office.

"But we hope that they will return to China. The Chinese government needs help in developing their homeland," Ismail said.

The Chinese government had agreed to give them passports, Ismail said.

If they did not want to return home and preferred to become Indonesian nationals, they could apply for Indonesian citizenship at the local district courts after first giving up their Chinese citizenship.

"The process will take time because the President himself must sign the citizenship documents collectively" Ismail said.

Ismail signed a memorandum of understanding in China last week on the settlement of the immigration problems faced by the Chinese citizens in indonesia. It was the follow-up of the signing of a similar document when Indonesia and China restored full diplomatic relations in August 1990.

About 140,000 Chinese citizens in the country had applied for repatriation under the Presidential Regulation No. 10/1959 and obtained the Exit Permit Only (EPO) in the late 1950s. Forty thousand of them had returned home when diplomatic relations between the two countries were frozen in 1967, following the abortive coup in 1965 by the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI).

A census made in late 1980s revealed that there were only about 4,000 of the group who had not legitimized their immigration documents. Most of the others had obtained resident cards, become Indonesian citizens, or remained stateless.

Ismail said yesterday that the Chinese government had agreed to provide passports for those people who had become permanent residents here and for individuals who illegally entered the country in the 1970s.

At present there are about 300,000 Chinese residents in Indonesia who have obtained residents' cards (SKK), and another 1,200 illegal immigrants from China who have lived here since the 1970s.

Asmail said that the illegal immigrants were tried and sent to jail. After serving their jail terms, the government was unable to deport them due to the absence of diplomatic ties with China. They were then allowed to live in Indonesia and were given stay permits, but they were obliged to periodically report to the immigration authorities.

Alatas Welcomes Resolution of Thailand's Unrest

BK2505130992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1154 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Jakarta, May 25 (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has welcomed the resolution of Thailand's political unrest through an agreement that all problems will be settled through parliamentary procedures, and entails the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun.

"We thank God, as continuing unrest would be of deep concern of ASEAN member countries," Alatas told newsmen here Monday after swearing in Lieutenant Colonel David Mahulette as Indonesian consul general to Papua New Guinea.

The crisis was settled after King Phumiphon Adunyadet intervened in the conflict between Khraprayun and pro-democracy leader Chamlong Simuang, a former Bangkok governor.

In a special television broadcast, the 58-year-old premier said that his resignation was proof of his political responsibility and desire for reconciliation and to facilitate parliamentary debate on a new constitution.

He was confident that what has been going on in Thailand would not affect the relations between the country and Indonesia as well as the other ASEAN member countries. Alatas considered that the unrest was Thailand's domestic affair.

Referring to the East Timor issue, Alatas said the matter would possibly be put on the United Nations agenda as Indonesia and Portugal have not found a mutually satisfactory solution to the problem.

The East Timor issue has not been on the UN agenda since 1983.

In the meantime in 1991, a Portuguese delegation cancelled a planned visit to the youngest Indonesian province, and the Portuguese Government has requested UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali to spotlight the issue.

Indonesia, according to Alatas, objected to the request as the two countries have not agreed on who should represent East Timor at the international forum.

Alatas on East Timor, Former Yugoslav Republics

BK2205134192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1034 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Dili (East Timor), May 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas deplored here Wednesday those giving wrong picture about East Timor, saying all accusations that Indonesia annexed the former colony of Portugal in 1975 were baseless.

Before university students in the youngest province of Indonesia, [words indistinct] Indonesia was present in East Timor as wished by the East Timorese who suffered a lot after the Portuguese colonial forces left following a bloody civil war.

He said the civil war in East Timor 17 years ago was something fabricated by Portugal itself with the hope that it could maintain its colonial rule long. "Divided people obviously are easier to control," Alatas said, adding that it was foolish for the country to say that Indonesia annexed East Timor while decolonization process was still taking place.

He further said, even worse, Portugal has tried to encourage and finance the emergence of the so-called Fretilin, a tiny group active in the efforts to turn out chaotic situation in East Timor.

Alatas deemed efforts to make Fretilin treated as representatives of all East Timorese nothing more than fact twisting.

During the dialog with the students, Alatas also answered questions on the high unemployment rate especially among university graduates, the country's political system, and the government's policies to enhance the welfare of the East Timor people.

Jakarta officially accepted East Timor as the country's 27th province in 1976 after carefully studying the issuance of the Balibo Declaration a year earlier. It was through the declaration that East Timorese stated their wish to integrate with Indonesia.

Meanwhile, a Jakarta-based daily reported, the foreign minister while in East Timor also told newsmen that Jakarta's decision to recognize the sovereignty of Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina would not affect its relations with Yugoslavia.

The decision to recognize the three breakaway republics of Yugoslavia was announced by the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Jakarta Tuesday.

Alatas said even Yugoslavia (now comprising Serbia and Montenegro only) did not object to the [word indistinct] of the three republics.

The new Yugoslavia will not have a problem either in its membership in the 31-year-old Nonaligned Movement (NAM), he said adding that until today the country was still a member of NAM.

Yugoslavia formerly was a federal socialist republic comprising Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

'Ready' for Dialogue With Portugal

BK2305134992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1253 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Dili, May 23 (ANTARA)—The East Timor issue is still registered in the United Nations' agenda as a disputed territory which needs solution, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here Friday.

He mentioned two ways for the solution of the issue, namely dialogue between Indonesia and Portugal, and a struggle in international forums mediated by the United Nations.

Indonesia is prepared to face Portugal in seeking solution to the issue through whatever ways. "In brief, Indonesia is prepared to face whatever ways Portugal will choose, dialogue, voting or other ways."

Minister Alatas explained that Portugal left East Timor when the region was shattered by a civil war but now shamelessly claimed to be the administrator of East Timor.

Portugal's attitude towards East Timor has been very unstable in recent days and never kept its own words, Alatas said.

At the early integration of East Timor, Indonesia once offered to Portugal to return to its former colony but there had never been a firm answer, Alatas said.

The Indonesian offer was made merely based on its wisdom, even though Portugal had no longer right to East Timor because it had ignored its right and responsibility on its former colony, the minister said.

Ironically, however, that Portugal has in recent days sowed groundless rumors in a number of foreign media that the people of East Timor refused the province's integration into Indonesia.

"This is ridiculous, groundless and contradicts the fact of history. The integration was based on the wish of the majority of the people of East Timor, namely the wish of four of the existing five parties at that time," he said.

He admitted that there are now a handful anti-integration persons but the number of these people are very small and are backed by Portugal.

Portugal has incited and financed the activities of the Fretilin Trouble-Maker Group (GPK)—whose number are only a "nail" compared with the total population of East Timor—in order to carry out a series of anti-Indonesia demonstrations, among others through the November 12 incident in Dili, Alatas said.

In reply to a question, Alatas said that if Portugal submitted a resolution to the United Nations, urging Indonesia to withraw from East Timor, Indonesia would be very encouraged because such a resolution would serve as a ground for Indonesia to start its "struggle" (for solving the issue).

"I am confident Portugal will never submit such a resolution because it realizes its weaknesses in the international forums," the minister added.

No Delegation for Lisbon Aid Talks

LD2205130292 Lisbon RTP-1 Television Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] We just learned from LUSA that Indonesia is not sending a representative to Lisbon after all. Lopes da Cruz, President Suharto's adviser, has confirmed to Radio Correio da Manha that Jakarta has declined an invitation to the conference [on aid to the CIS] being held in Lisbon this weekend. Abilio Araujo, representative of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, welcomed the news, saying that Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, initially expected to come to Lisbon, must have considered the consequences of his attendance.

East Timor Welcomes Australia's Aid Offer

BK2505131392 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 15 May 92 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Australian Ambassador Philip Flood said yesterday that the East Timor provincial authorities had welcomed his government's proposed development cooperation program for the province.

The ambassador was speaking in Denpasar, Bali, after spending four days in the former Portuguese colony. He said that he was following up on the agreement for development which was signed during the recent visit to Indonesia of Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

He said the current plan by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) was to spend Rp [rupiah] 46 billion (A$32 million) over the upcoming five-year period of 1992 to 1997.

According to the ambassador the largest project that has already been approved was a water and environmental sanitation project. "The project aims to provide clean water and sanitation in the Dili and Cavalima regency," he said. According to the ambassador it will help an estimated 100,000 people.

The project, he said, would assist the Indonesian Government in meeting its target for water supply as planned in the fifth Repellita (Natioanl Development Plan). The Australian project inputs are estimated at Rp 17 billion (A$11.7 million).

Under the project three long-term advisers and a number of short-term ones would be assigned to East Timor, Flood said. At present, one Australian expert, a veterinarian, Dr. Tim Buick, has begun work in the province.

"He is assisting in the provision of improved veterinary services for villagers and commercial livestock owners."

Flood added that he expected a positive response to possible Australian commercial investment in East Timor. In particular there was a positive attitude to the interest of two Queensland companies in building a slaughter house and a meat processing works involving the supply of cattle from Australia, he said.

According to Flood a site in the eastern part of the province had been identified for growing pineapples and corn as a feed additive. He added that a feasibility study for the project was now being undertaken.

Sutrisno Warns against 'Undesirable Campaign Tactics'

BK2305160292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno says the election campaign process tends to deviate from the existing regulations, and if it is left unchecked it may lead to chaos and social upheaval. Speaking at a function to mark the 27th founding anniversary of the National Defense Institute in Jakarta today, Gen. Sutrisno said election contestants must avoid using undesirable campaign tactics.

The Armed Forces commander said the political culture of the Indonesian people is based on fraternity, unity, and consultation, instead of contradiction, dissension, and confrontation. Therefore, people from all walks of life must jointly face problems. National development indeed constitutes efforts to achieve better conditions for the people. Therefore, Gen. Sutrisno called on the people not to be misled by political slogans promising changes not supported by clearly formulated concepts.

Daily Views 'Chaotic Campaigns'

BK2505091392 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 25 May 92

[From the press review]

[Text] KOMPAS says the current election campaigns look chaotic in several cities. In Yogyakarta, there was a protest against the regulation banning election campaigns using motorcycles. In Surakarta, a similar protest took place following a motorcycle parade interspersed with undesirable actions. KOMPAS believes that if campaigns using motorcycles are banned, then there should be an alternative method. KOMPAS points out that unorganized masses with little party loyalty play important roles during these campaigns. Therefore, we must be prepared to face possible serious incidents during the campaign period and view them as our common problem. However, if several minor incidents are left unchecked, serious incidents are bound to occur.

Opposition Party Official Banned

BK2505103992 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 May 92 p 1

[Text] JAKARTA (JP)—The police have banned a member of the United Development Party (PPP) from speaking at future election campaign rallies because he raised what the authorities regard as highly devisive issues at a rally here on Sunday [10 May].

The police have scratched K.H. Sumarno Syafei's name from the list of PPP officials allowed to campaign, a spokesman for Jakarta police headquarters said yesterday.

Sumarno apparently earned the wrath of the authorities for touching on ethnic, religious and other sensitive issues during PPP's opening rally on Sunday in Lapangan Banteng.

The National Election Committee does not censor campaign speeches but has issued guidelines on subjects the political groups should avoid. The banned topics, popularly known by the Indonesian acronym SARA, are ethic problems, religious and racial and the imbalance of equality in society.

Sumarno turned up at a PPP rally in Bendungan Hilir in Central Jakarta yesterday.

Fifteen Dead, 25 Injured in Election Campaigns

BK2505133192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Speaking in his capacity as chairman of the Elections Commission today, Home Affairs Minister Rudini said that current election campaigns are getting increasingly violent and violations against campaign regulations are getting more and more blatant. Casualties have increased steadily and canvassers' attitudes make people nervous and afraid.

Up to now, total casualties stand at 15 dead and 25 injured. Rudini disclosed this to reporters after chairing a meeting to evaluate elections campaign in Jakarta this morning. He noted that in addition to the increasing number of casualties, violations of campaign regulations also caused damages among street vendors. To avoid more losses from the campaigns in the coming days, Minister Rudini called on the three political parties to increase their control of their members and make better use of their security guards to assist the government's security personnel. The political parties and members of the public are also urged to be vigilant against efforts to confuse the situation and foil 1992 general elections. Minister Rudini hopes that political parties' security guards will be deployed among the masses. Political parties should not depend on the Indonesian Armed Forces personnel alone for the maintenance of security because of a scarcity of Armed Forces personnel.

Laos

U.S.-Lao Cooperation Advances in Houa Phan

BK2205110692 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 22 (KPL)—The Lao-American Cooperation Project for Integrated Rural Development has experimented on coffee plantation at 11 villages in Houa Meuang District, Houa Phan Province. Recently, these villages have been provided with 12,314 saplings.

The project has the objectives to persuade local people to put an end to poppy cultivation, forest destruction, slash-and-burn cultivation detrimental to environment and take up cash crop cultivation and animal raising for marketing.

The project also plans to provide 600 saplings of gum trees and 47 kgs of tung to the district on the National Arbor Day, 1 June.

The Lao-American Cooperation Project has operated in this northern province for several years.

Paper Comments on Situation in Thailand

BK2305093592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 23 May 92

[23 May PASASON feature: "After the Adverse Incident, Democracy in Thailand Should Bloom Again"]

[Text] Respected listeners, as reported earlier, there has been political chaos in Thailand, in particular the capital of Bangkok over the past week. This is the result of the struggle launched by the Thai people with the support of various opposition parties demanding an elected prime minister and other constitutional amendments from the government and coalition parties. This protest for amendments had grown tremendously. The government, practising extreme restraint, requested the protesters to end their rally or to hold it peacefully to avoid clashes with peacekeeping authorities and to preserve order. They said a violent protest might badly affect the nation and people. At the same time, the prime minister called on the opposition parties to end their struggle outside parliament and to discuss the issue in the House of Representatives instead.

After a period of verbal attacks, the protest ended without any adverse incidents. But later, on 17 May 1992, another protest was held. The following day, when the protesters moved from the Sanam Luang grounds—the main rally site—to the central Ratchadamnoen Avenue, they clashed with the police. This resultant tension escalated to such an extent that both sides started attacking each other with considerable losses in lives and property to both state and private sectors.

In light of the situation, the government declared a state of emergency in Bangkok and the nearby provinces of Samut Prakan, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, and Samut Sakhon. The state of emergency in Thailand generated concern in various friendly countries, near and far. Nevertheless, Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun and Major General Chamlong Simuang, former leader of Phalang Tham Party, as representatives of all confronting parties, were granted an audience with King Phumiphon Adunyadet on 21 May. During the audience, the king instructed both of them to cooperate and to help bring about tranquillity to the country and to solve the problems at parliament so as to build and develop the country together. The situation subsequently returned to normal.

The agreement reached following the audience with the king met the aspirations of the Thai people and has brought satisfaction to all of them. The undesirable event has now come to an end. As everyone knows, such an incident would badly affect any country, big or small. The Lao people, as good neighbors of the Thai people, like other peace- and justice-loving nations, are very pleased to see that all parties concerned in Thailand have brought an end to the adverse incident. Our Lao people hope the Thai Government and various political parties from both government and opposition will be able to resolve the remaining problems peacefully, on the basis of principles beneficial to the Thai people and the Thai nation and in the interest of Thailand's international cause, to contribute to maintaining stability, peace, and tranquillity in the region.

PRC's Yunnan Provincial Group Meets Officials

BK2505135892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] This morning, a delegation of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry led by Mrs. Khempheng Phonsena, deputy minister, held a meeting at the ministry in Vientiane with a delegation of PRC's Yunnan Province led by Bao Yongkang, vice chairman of the Yunnan Provincial People's Government.

At the meeting, the two sides informed each other of the domestic situation in their respective countries. They also reviewed the implementation of an already signed agreement on cross-border trade cooperation and exchanges. In addition, they exchanged views on economic and trade cooperation and on their past and future relations.

The Yunnan Province delegation arrived in Vientiane yesterday for a visit at the invitation of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry.

Philippines

Ramos Calls for Unity, Reconciliation From Others

HK2505034292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 May 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] Presidential front-runner Fidel V. Ramos yesterday expressed concern about fraud charges levelled against the Lakas- NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] and said one of his first acts, if he is declared winner, would be to "win a new mandate" from those who voted against him.

During a press conference, Ramos appealed for unity, saying "this may be our last chance." Shortly before the news conference, Ramos attended an ecumenical prayer service sponsored by the Lakas-NUCD at the Don Bosco parish church in Makati.

"The most urgent necessity is getting everybody to agree that the country is in dire straits, in crisis even," Ramos told reporters.

He declined to formally claim victory. The Lakas-NUCD last Friday declared that Ramos had won because of his "insurmountable" lead in the unofficial and partial tally of the Media Citizens Quick Count.

Ramos said he had instructed his campaign staff, both during and after the May 11 balloting, to avoid cheating.

"Certainly, we are worried because we went into this political campaign as a party ... with a basic policy of first altering the political culture based on patronage and power brokering," Ramos said. "We were concerned about the process being tarnished."

If Ramos maintains his margin as the remaining uncounted votes are tabulated, he would probably win with a mandate below 23 percent, the weakest in Philippine history.

"Certainly, there is a very urgent need to get everybody together," Ramos said. "The new administration, especially if that is a Ramos administration, will have to take initial steps for attaining unity and solidarity."

Ramos said he would start "from Day 1 to win a new mandate from everybody."

He said the country's leaders should work together to keep "our democracy stable and functioning for us to to achieve political, economic and social goals without so much delay."

"This may be our last chance so we better get going. Other countries are overtaking us," he added.

After the news conference, Ramos told the INQUIRER that he will continue peace talks with the National Democratic Front [NDF], the umbrella group of all communist groups.

"Those (talks) have been going on ... that should continue," Ramos said.

He said he would also welcome peace dialogs with military rebels from the Rebolosyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance; RAM] to stop further coup attempts and bring stability to the nation.

But the "interest of the majority" must be the primary criterion in dealing with rebels "who continue to espouse armed struggle."

"If we are to prevent any further coups and further attacks on our municipalities and burning of police stations, I think they should renounce the policy of violence," he said.

"We must ask those that have to be reconciled to forego their policy of armed struggle to gain political power," he added.

Last year, exploratory talks between the NDF and top government officials were held in Hong Kong. Another dialog was set last March 6 and 7 in Brussels, Belgium, but the government cancelled the talks on May 5.

An NDF spokesman in April said it was open to fresh talks under the "old or new administration."

"We are always ready (for a dialog), without preconditions and when the government is ready," Byron Bocar, an NDF official, told the INQUIRER.

Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, also initiated talks last year with three rebel military groups—RAM, Soldiers of the Filipino People and the Young Officers Union.

Nearly 100 rebel officers linked to the series of coup attempts were released from detention and placed under custody as a sign of Abadia's "good faith."

Nearly 50 rebel officers also surfaced and were placed under custodial detention. But putsch leader Gregorio Honasan has remained at large.

'Continues To Lead' in Latest Count

HK2605091792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Administration candidate Fidel V. Ramos continues to lead by a million votes against his closest rival People's Reform Party presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago. This is according to the latest unofficial tabulation by the Media Citizen's Quick Count.

Ramos leads with 4,184,048 votes. He is followed by Santiago who has 3,130,478 votes. Eduardo Danding Cojuangco and Ramon Mitra, Jr. have 3,105,080 and 2,648,729 votes respectively. Imelda Marcos, Jovito Salonga, and Salvador Laurel continue to lag behind the four in that order.

Meanwhile, in the vice presidential race, Joseph Estrada continues to lead with 4,876,868 votes, followed by former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan who has 3,513,133. Lito Osmena places third with 2,645,112 votes. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Aquilino Pimentel, Vicente Magsaysay, and Eva Estrada Kalaw follow in that order.

Among the top 30 senatorial candidates, the top three leaders are Vicente Tito Sotto with 8,523,650 votes, Ramon Revilla with 5,963,970, and Edgardo Angara with 5,907,417.

Cojuangco Reiterates Respect for Poll Result

HK2105142092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0030 GMT 21 May 92

[Interview with presidential candidate Eduardo Danding Cojuangco by Joe Taruc on the 'Liberty in Action' program at the Manila Broadcasting Company studios—live; italicized passages in English]

[Text] [Taruc] Good morning. Our guest this morning is no other than former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco. Mr. Ambassador, good morning.

[Cojuangco] Good morning, Joe, everyone.

[Taruc] Okay, it is now ten days after the elections, what are your personal observations on the results of the *advance canvassing*?

[Cojuangco] Personally, I would not like to make any comment, not only because it is inappropriate, but more because I am a candidate myself. I'm not making any moves because if we compare it to playing card games *I feel that I have all the right cards and in the end, whoever has the right cards wins. I feel have the numbers so far.* I am sure that you have heard, Joe—I hope you were one of those media men we briefed lately—that we are conducting our own quick count. We invested in this primarily because I wanted to know as soon as possible what my position was in the canvassing.

My problem now, Joe, is that based on our own quick count, I stand to win. I would like to say....

[Taruc, interrupting] You are referring to the quick count of by the Nationalist People's Coalition [NPC].

[Cojuangco] That is correct, Joe. Many of my rivals might say that because it is my own quick count, it just follows that it should be in my favor. However, I would like to inform the public that this quick count is basically for our benefit. *It is in house.* But if there is anyone who is interested in inspecting or questioning our figures, *we will just be too happy to show you.* Unfortunately, the Commission on Election [Comelec] has ruled that these figures could not be released publicly.

[Taruc] In the tabulation of your own quick count, how are the presidential candidates ranked?

[Cojuangco] Based on our count, I have been leading for quite some time. But that is based on our own count.

[Taruc] What is your basis for this? Is this based on what your men have....

[Cojuangco, interrupting] This is based on the *certified official copies* that our people in different precincts have copied. Personally, *I think this is self-serving.* But I sincerely believe that the organization that we have in place now is better than any of the organizations which are currently disseminating information. May I repeat that this is merely my opinion. Granted that it is self-serving, I merely answered your question.

[Taruc] Ambassador, what percentage of the total votes has the NPC tabulated?

[Cojuangco] We have tabulated around 40 percent of the votes.

[Taruc] And you are still expecting additional inputs into this tabulation of yours?

[Cojuangco] This goes on day after day and it is open for 24 hours. All of our computers are *on-line*. We do not have those so-called *reconcilers* that determine what figures should be inputted. All figures go directly into the machine.

[Taruc] Although we are aware that the Media Citizen's Quick Count's [MCQC] tabulations are unofficial, your camp has nonetheless continued to criticize the results of their tabulations. Can you tell our audience what specific flaws do you see in the MCQC's methodology and systems?

[Cojuangco] Thank you, Joe. When all the presidential candidates were first invited by the Comelec to inspect the MCQC, I questioned the need for a quick count. I asked why we should not just wait for the Comelec's ruling, after all, it is official.

I also told them that the count may result in *trending*, as happened in 1986. But Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod insisted that this would not happen because if they were to release only five percent of votes in Metro Manila, only five percent would be released throughout the country. [sentence as heard] But I know that that is not the case with this quick count. You have read the headlines in several newspapers, *the leading candidate is General Ramos, who increased his lead because of the Northern Luzon votes that were counted.* However, I know for a fact that those votes that they are talking about are from Pangasinan. That is only one province out of the many provinces in Northern Luzon. So I immediately know that it is incorrect.

Secondly, and this point is important, there are only 30,000 Comelec volunteers *and there are over 178,000 precincts, that makes an average of almost six precincts per person for the same day,* and that makes it impossible for them to fulfill their duties quickly. So where did they get their initial figures? That is my question?

[Taruc] Do you have your own men or representatives at the MCQC tabulation center?

[Cojuangco] Yes, Joe, we have. And I hope that you also have your own. But my question is this: Who among our watchers can authenticate that the figures being inputted are correct? Can you? Personally, I think that no one can simply because the figures are inputted directly.

[Taruc] Does your representative not have the right to audit or question the system which the MCQC is using to tabulate the votes?

[Cojuangco] Presuming that they have, what can you do if they insist that the number is correct? Can you do anything?

[Taruc] Mr. Ambassador, as you know, we have been hearing a lot of reports that aside from the line computers at the National Tabulation Center [NTC], there is another computer somewhere which is also hooked to the tabulation center which has not yet been identified. Some say that there is a particular room at the center where this unauthorized computer is located. However, all of this goes unproven.

[Cojuangco] As you know, Joe, I would not like to accuse anyone of anything because that is not right, especially when I would be accusing someone who is aiming to govern the country. Let me put it to you simply based on the information we have received: the NTC's computers have a line going out of the main area. If this tabulation is really for the country and if seeks to show the truth ...[Cojuangco, changes thought] in my opinion, if you have a line going out of the premises, someone also has the capability to input figures into these computers. So, where are these outgoing cables connected?

[Taruc] We will no longer tell you where these cables are connected. I believe that these things will reveal themselves in due time.

[Cojuangco] *Oh, I am hoping it does.*

[Taruc] Okay, Mr. Ambassador, people are wondering why you have been kept quiet for the past ten days. You have not charged Comelec with any particular accusation nor have you been charging anyone of cheating in the polls. Why?

[Cojuangco] As you know, Joe, it not right to accuse anyone unless you have proof.

[Taruc] *Or are you just waiting for the official results?*

[Cojuangco] Personally, I am hoping that our quick count's figures are correct. We have invested both time and money in order to have a facility like this. Our facilities show that I am ahead, so why should I complain? Should the time come for me to complain, you can expect that I will!

[Taruc] Could you give our audience an idea of what the NPC's quick count is like? Do you have computers? If so, how many?

[Cojuangco] *We have around 400...[Cojuangco changes thought] 640 outlets all over the country, with fax machines....*

[Taruc, interrupting] Six hundred and forty points?.

[Cojuangco] That is correct. They are directly connected to our computers.

Let us say for example that you would question one of the figures which we have shown you, we can verify your query up to the precinct where that figure came from. My question is....

[Taruc] So, it is that comprehensive?

[Cojuangco] Yes.

[Taruc] Even up to the precinct level?

[Cojuangco] All our figures are verifiable. If I may ask you a question—although you are the interviewer—do you think that the MCQC can do this?

[Taruc] That is rather a hard question. First of all, I have not seen the facilities which you have described. But if you have people and fax machines directly linked to your computers from the 640 points, then your preparation have been very comprehensive.

[Cojuangco] We really prepared well for this election basically because I had an idea that this would happen.

[Taruc] You know....

[Cojuangco, interrupts] Joe, I would like to tell your listeners that I am not accusing anyone of any wrongdoing. I simply do not like what is happening. It seems like the people are now convinced that someone has unquestionably won this election and yet the figures used by the media—*and I don't intend to belittle the media*—are still unofficial. So why are we using unofficial data, which might probably be wrong, and trying to convince the public that this data is correct? I cannot simply understand our system.

[Taruc] What do you plan to do now, Ambassador?

[Cojuangco] I will continue to remain quiet. I would, however, like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to air these things out so that our people, who have labored hard because of their faith in me, will not be discouraged and disheartened with the MCQC' results. After all, only the MCQC's count is being printed in all of the newspapers and nothing else. I do not want them to think that they should give up simply because I am losing....

[Taruc, interrupts] You mean not to continue watching the polls?

[Cojuangco] I do not want them to think that this is all a waste of time. The only reason why I agreed to come forward today is not because I want to insist that I won the polls. For me, this is insignificant. Rather I am here because it is my obligation as a presidential candidate not to allow the labor of my supporters to go to waste.

[Taruc] Mr. Ambassador, you have a complete monitoring system and have people placed all over the country. Have you observed or seen any incidence of fraud or cheating in the election?

[Cojuangco] Many have said that there was cheating. Many candidates say there was rampant cheating. For my part, I said there was fraud. I have been asked to substantiate this by presenting evidence. At 1400 today, there will be a news conference where evidence will be presented. It is even on a videotape.

[Taruc] Is it an incident of cheating that is on the videotape....

[Cojuangco, interrupting] And even switching ballots. Tally sheets were laid open on the corridors.

[Taruc] Will this be seen or viewed by our listeners tonight on television?

[Cojuangco] It would be very good if this is shown on the stations. What I am saying is that there is evidence. They asked for it and I said there was cheating, so here is the evidence.

[Taruc] Let us talk about the province of Tarlac. How was your performance in this province? We learned that your two brothers lost there.

[Cojuangco] That is right, but with your permission, may I use this opportunity to thank our countrymen in Tarlac because I won there. I defeated all candidates there. I was leading by 75,000.

[Taruc] In Tarlac?

[Cojuangco] Yes, in Tarlac.

[Taruc] How many voters are there in Tarlac?

[Cojuangco] Four hundred and fifty thousand. For me this is just a small number. But what is important is that my adversaries did evrything they could, yet I still won by 75,000. Perhaps, you want to ask me why my two brothers lost.

[Taruc] Yes. One of them, Ernie Cojuangco, ran as governor and the other, Lita Cojuangco (Rivero), as congresswoman.

[Cojuangco] That is right. But this was part of our strategic plan. What we wanted to do was to give my relatives the right opponent, because if I did not ask my brother and sister to run, then they have all the freedom to go around. So I asked my brother and sister to sacrifice a bit. We knew that they may lose. But our goal was achieved.

[Taruc] You have a child, Charlie, who ran for election.

[Cojuangco] Yes, and he won.

[Taruc] Mr. Cojuangco, many of our listeners are asking for your opinion on the entry of Mrs. Marcos into the election. Did this help your candidacy or was it bad?

[Cojuangco] On the entry of the former first lady into the election, I have told her from the start that as a Filipina, she has the right and she could run. It was her decision which I can not question. On whether it has affected my candidacy, well, in Ilocos and in Leyte, perhaps it had an effect, but on the whole, I am not sure if it has, because if she had joined me, maybe others would have separated from me.

[Taruc] Many have said that if the votes for Mrs. Marcos would have been given to you, then you would have a huge lead over any of the leading candidates.

[Cojuangco] If we base things on that premise, then you are right.

[Taruc] How many congressmen under the Nationalist People's Coalition won?

[Cojuangco] This is just a guesstimate [Taruc laughs]. I think about 50 will make it.

[Taruc] Definitely, one will be eyeing the leadership of the House of Representatives. Will you be supporting them or...

[Cojuangco, interrupting] The people that belong to the party will play a big role with regards to the next speaker position.

[Taruc] But directly, you will not help in this?

[Cojuangco] As of now, I have not spoken to all of them. I think it is not proper that I answer that. Perhaps, when we would have the time after the vote-counting, all of us party members will talk and I will leave the party to answer that.

[Taruc] Mr. Ambassador, many are asking if this People's Nationalist Coalition is just for the 1992 election or is this a party that will continue to exist even after the 1992 election?

[Cojuangco] That was what I was announcing during my campaign that I would want to see a party institutionalized here. If we are not lucky in that I am not proclaimed president by Congress, it will be quite difficult to continue, as you know, I will not be in power. But to the best of my ability, as a private citizen and in the event that I will not be proclaimed president by the Congress, I would still try to pursue that. I will ask my party mates to try to pursue this since our performance in this election is one that we should not be ashamed of.

[Taruc] At present, there are reports that former Secretary Fidel Ramos has been talking to the other presidential candidates like Speaker Mitra, Vice President Salvador Laurel, to start a process of reconciliation. Are you prepared to talk to Secretary Ramos?

[Cojuangco] Why not. We went through the same things and there is no reason why I would not talk to him.

[Taruc] Despite his statement that his first priority during his term will be to pursue the restoration of the coconut levy to coconut planters.

[Cojuangco] We are for the same thing. In fact I am fighting for the restoration of things belonging to the coconut farmers. But the present administration has opposed this. What is rightly for the farmers should be given to them. On the other hand, what is rightfully mine is mine. I could only say that if that is really his objective, I hope I am given what is mine and he allows me to vote under my rightful shares.

[Taruc] Mr. Ambassador, you are awaiting the results of the election, which is the official count conducted by the Congress. If you were declared winner by Congress, although you lost in the MCQC, are you thinking about any scenario or what could happen in this regard?

[Cojuangco] I was asked that question before, Joe, only it was phrased the other way around, which was, if I was not proclaimed winner, what would I do? I said I will accept whoever is proclaimed by Congress as the new president. By the same token, should I be proclaimed the victor, I hope that they would do the same.

[Taruc] In other words, you are simply going to honor the covenant that you signed during the last debate at the Comelec.

[Cojuangco] Yes, I will honor that covenant.

[Taruc] In the event that you are declared next president, what will you do first?

[Cojuangco] As I have been said before, I would announce who would comprise my administration and who would be retained from the outgoing administration based on their performance. I think that the very first thing that I would do is to talk with the transition team which the current president is leaving behind so that we may be briefed on who and how....

[Taruc, interrupting] Have you, Mr. Ambassador, in one way or another, formed your own *shadow government* or the composition of the new government?

[Cojuangco] No, we have not been discussing that. Although we have considered some names. But I believe it is not yet the time to focus our attention on these things. I believe that this [election process] will still take a long time to finish. It has been one month [as heard], and we are still waiting for the results of the canvassing. This will not be over in less than one month.

[Taruc] I will just reverse the situation, Mr. Ambassador. Should you not be declared by Congress as president-elect, would this mean your retirement from politics?

[Cojuangco] As I said before, Joe, I will try this only once. If the results show that I did not win and Congress will not proclaim me the winner, I think that is it. I have done my best but if I end up the loser, I think it is best that I rest and just help as a private citizen.

[Taruc] But this will not result in the dismantling of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

[Cojuangco] No. Retirement does not mean I will not be taking any part in politics, but I will not be running as a candidate anymore.

[Taruc] There is a question here on what your opinion would be if, on 30 June, no president is proclaimed. What would you do?

[Cojuangco] That is a good question because I think no one can give you a correct answer because there is no law on that. This would be one of the problems we could face, if no one is proclaimed. Many people are saying a lot but the truth is there is no rule on this.

[Taruc] If your running mate is proclaimed vice president...

[Cojuangco] I think that the vice president will not be proclaimed if there is no president. This is what I am surprised about. Look at the votes for the vice president, there is a million gap with the presidential candidates. I think people vote for a president first before a vice president. This is the only time, as far as I remember, when more people have voted for a vice president than a president. If what we are reading is true.

[Taruc] Are you saying that this should be looked into or reviewed by our people? In the tabulations, there has been a big difference between the number of people who voted for vice president and those who voted for president.

[Cojuangco] That is right. That is a good observation. I think this should be looked into.

[Taruc] With your permission, Mr. Ambassador, let us answer some of our listeners' questions. Dick Josue of Pasay asked: If there really was cheating, what can be done to correct this? Can something be done or would the cheaters sit in power?

[Cojuangco] What we can do is to present our evidence at the Comelec and wait for it to act on this, because according to our laws, it is the body responsible for this.

[Taruc] Larry Santiago of Tondo, Manila: If Ramos or Santiago wins, are you ready to cooperate with them? Will you accept defeat?

[Cojuangco] I have said that whoever is proclaimed by the Congress in accordance with our Constitution, I will accept that person as our country's president. On acceptance of a government position, I will not accept a position anymore. Being in the private sector, as I had been before, would be enough for me as it was during the past administration. I held no government position then.

[Taruc] Antonio Bautista: Can you explain your claim about computers in the MCQC which have outside lines or extensions?

[Cojuangco] No one knows where the computers at the MCQC with outside lines are connected to. What I was saying is if there is an outside line, you can send figures out and you can also send figures in.

[Taruc] Maybe, in due time, the truth will come out.

[Cojuangco] Hopefully in due time it will come out.

[Taruc] Marcelo Perez of Makati: May we know your votes from the final tally of your quick count at the NPC and your lead over Ramos and Santiago?

[Cojuangco] I will say that in our count, I am ahead of my two political adversaries in Luzon and the Visayas. This is why I was quiet because I was confident this will show in the Congressional count.

[Taruc] Romy Viray of Makati says Erap Estrada has done a big thing for you, but if he wins as vice president, what help can you give him to become an effective vice president.

[Cojuangco] If I were not proclaimed, I think I could not help him anymore because he will be vice president while I will only be a private citizen. Maybe I would even be the one he has to help.

[Taruc] Mr. Ambassador, may we know the effect of your merger with Erap on your campaign?

[Cojuangco] I think we helped each other and our merger has helped us a lot which I appreciate a lot.

[Taruc] Gigi Magno of Sta. Mesa: You should not be sad if you are not successful in this election because your running mate, Erap Estrada, and other party mates are winning.

[Cojuangco] It maybe difficult for your to believe Gigi, but whatever the result, I will be happy because I have seen that many of our countrymen have supported and believed in me.

[Taruc] Mr. Ambassador, what good did this 1992 political campaign do for you?

[Cojuangco] My biggest appreciation in this political campaign is that I saw my motherland the way it is, the way our people live. *I have seen the best regions, the richest places, and also the poorest and the worst. I feel that the situation of the worst provinces of this country is not really a hopeless case and while that is sad, I am also delighted because I know they can be turned around. The worst places of this country, I feel, can be turned around and the whole country, in fact, can be turned around.*

[Taruc] There is a long distance call from Bacolod from Mr. Sergio Golez. He says: You have plenty of friends in Negros Occidental, please explain what happened because your candidacy failed miserably in that area when Congressmen Yulo and Mati won?

[Cojuangco] *Well, I would have to say and admit that Negros is one of the disappointments of this campaign for us because we expected to win in Negros. I feel that...*

[Taruc, interrupting] Even in your own count, did you lose there in Negros Occidental?

[Cojuangco] Yes. *And the only explanation I can give is that our organization did not hold together and I am hoping that in the future, shall we say, institute the proper corrective measures.*

[Taruc] We have so many questions for Ambassador Cojuangco. Ely Bengsol of Pasig says that you lost in (President Roxas, Capiz) because you did not help the governor there. Is this true?

[Cojuangco] We helped all our candidates. That is not true.

[Taruc] Mr. Ambassador, if you have any statement or appeal to make for your supporters nationwide, you are welcome to voice it.

[Cojuangco] First of all, I thank DZRH for having invited me to appear in your program. I want to use this opportunity to thank all the people who supported us in this campaign and I want to appeal to our supporters not to succumb to whatever you read in the papers or hear from whatever source. I will be the first to say when we are to bow to the wishes of our people. The process is not finished yet. This will still take a long time before we can say who really has won. This is all I can say. Thank you.

Santiago To Fast Until Election Fraud Admitted

HK2205135592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1348 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Manila, May 22 (AFP)—Presidential candidate Miriam Santiago is to fast to press the Philippine election commission to admit widespread fraud in last week's elections, her spokesmen said here Friday.

Santiago, who campaigned on an anti-corruption platform, will start her fast in a government hospital Saturday and will receive only liquids until the Commission on Elections admits that widespread fraud has taken place, the spokesman said.

He said her action should not be considered a hunger strike, but did not elaborate.

The early leader in the semi-official Media-Citizens Quick Count now stands third behind former defense secretary Fidel Ramos, President Corazon Aquino's handpicked successor, and rightist tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco.

She has said she could lose only if the Ramos camp was cheating and has threatened to call massive street protests although she has been unable to present proof of fraud.

The elections were widely considered to be among the most peaceful and orderly in years.

The government and the MCQC have acknowledged isolated cases of fraud, but said it was not widespread.

About 70 followers of the populist firebrand staged a prayer rally at the headquarters of the MCQC.

Begins Fast, Criticizes Aquino

HK2305085392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 May 92

[By Sonny Casulla]

[Text] Presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago of the People's Reform Party started her hunger strike at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia in Quezon City at noon today. This is part of her election-related series of protest rallies. In a news conference at the Department of Education and Training Room of the Philippine Heart Center, Santiago strongly criticized the Aquino government for harassing her and for the rampant cheating in the recently concluded election. She also cited the delay in this year's school opening. Santiago said:

[Begin recording in English—in progress] ...that it would delay the opening of schools throughout the Philippines from June 8, which was scheduled over a year ago, to June 15. What is the purpose of the delay? The ostensible reason was that the president of the Philippines said: We will delay the opening of school from June 8 to June 15 because there are not enough notebooks in the country, there are not enough pad papers, there are not enough [words indistinct], not enough school teachers, not enough high school principals.

I ask the president of the Philippines: Since when, from the very beginning of the Philippine Republic in 1945, have there ever been enough notebooks and pad papers in this country? And thus, we see so obviously how flimsy the [words indistinct] of this administration has rendered its reasoning capability. If they want to postpone the opening of school simply because they do not want the students to listen to me, then tell the students so. For an administration that cannot tell these young people the truth has no basis for remaining in power. [end recording]

Dr. Joel Averilla, spokesman of Santiago's attending physician, said Santiago is taking only a liquid diet. He explained that the hospital accepted Santiago as an ordinary patient.

Ends Hunger Strike

HK2505131492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Manila, May 25 (AFP)—Losing presidential candidate Miriam Santiago lifted her three-day fast against alleged election fraud here Monday as Congress prepared for a vote count expected to end in proclaiming her rival Fidel Ramos winner.

Miriam Santiago, who won the urban center votes with her tough anti-graft platform, said in a statement that she was heeding the advice of the Roman Catholic clergy to end her fast in deference to the congressional canvass.

Former trial judge Santiago trailed Ramos, the administration candidate, in the latest semi-official tally covering 73.2 percent of the precincts, getting 18 percent of votes to the former defense secretary's 24 percent.

Opposition tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, the erstwhile second placer, dropped to third in a field of seven with 17.9 percent.

Santiago, who began to shun solid food on Saturday [23 May], said she was confident the official canvass would "provide proof" of her charges of widescale cheating by the government of President Corazon Aquino to ensure a Ramos victory.

She said she has been advised by Jaime Cardinal Sin, the spiritual leader of this largely Roman Catholic nation, that while fasting was good for the health, "she can't fight graft and corruption if she's weak."

The Aquino government denied Santiago's charges Monday.

"There was no widespread fraud. While there are reports of tampering of certificates of canvass, these are isolated incidents, and the office of the president has nothing to do with these," Aquino's Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said.

The laborious official count—which begins at the precinct, municipal and provincial levels—is to culminate with a nationwide canvass by congress starting Tuesday.

A congressional leader said Sunday the new president should be proclaimed by early June.

Meanwhile, the armed forces Monday expressed confidence that Congress would finish the official count before Aquino stood down June 30, and began preparing a military parade to welcome the new commander-in-chief.

Military chief General Lisandro Abadia said after a meeting of top brass that they had "collective confidence" that Congress would "rise above partisan concerns" and finish its task in time.

But he said the slow count left the process vulnerable to charges of fraud, and ordered field commanders to "remain vigilant and be ready to respond to any exigency that may arise."

The military leaders suggested the government consider "simpler procedures and even computerization and electronic transmission of results" to prevent delays in future elections.

The senate and the house of representatives convened separately here Monday to prepare for Tuesday's count, during which 94 provincial and district certificates of canvass, or vote totals, are to be tallied.

The senate promptly became embroiled in a debate on whether their work involved simply tallying results or scrutinizing every certificate for signs of fraud.

Comelec Demands Proof of Fraud Allegations

HK2305022792 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] has called the chief of the in-house quick count of the Nationalist People's Coalition, Antonio Valdez, to explain why he should not be charged with contempt for accusing Comelec of laying the foundation for widespread fraud during the election. Valdez claims that Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod deliberately padded the voters list to be able to register a higher count for Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats' standard bearer Fidel Ramos.

Comelec says it never released figures on the number of voters, except for a regional summary released 11 May.

Comelec ordered Valdez to inform the commission if indeed he was the one who made the report to newspapers, and if so, to substantiate his claim.

Official Confirms 'Isolated Cases' of Poll Fraud

HK2305023092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Malacanang has confirmed that there were isolated cases of cheating in the recent elections. However, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said these were too few to affect the entire result of the polls. At the same time, Drilon expressed the belief that based on the result of the counting representing over 50 percent of the total votes, there is a clear trend showing the victory of administration candidate Fidel Ramos.

Thailand

Over 500 Still Missing in Riot Aftermath

BK2305001792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 May 92 p 1

[Excerpts] Some 572 people have provisionally been reported as missing in the aftermath of three days of protests in Bangkok in which hundreds were killed or wounded, according to tallies compiled by several centres formed to help locate missing persons.

However, sources said some names may be on more than one list as relatives might have made reports at different centres. [passage omitted]

However, the Local Administration Department (LAD) received only seven complaints of missing people, according to Interior Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakun.

He said the family of each dead victim would receive 10,000 baht from the Interior Ministry which will also cover the funeral costs.

Mr Anan said that more funds would be requested from the Government to provide additional financial asssistance to families of the dead in cases where the victims were "bread winners."

Memorial Service Held for Shooting Victims

BK2405043992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0354 GMT 24 May 92

[Excerpt] Bangkok, May 24 (AFP)—An estimated 50,000 people attended a Sunday morning memorial service for the scores of pro- democracy demonstrators slain last week by Thai soldiers in Bangkok.

Many wore black as a symbol of mourning during the ceremony at Democracy Monument, one of the focal points of four days of demonstrations against non-elected prime minister Suchinda Khraprayun that left more than 100 people dead by unofficial count.

Some laid wreaths at the monument in west-central Bangkok. Others offered food to some 300 Buddhist monks in keeping with the Thai tradition of merit-making.

The monks were standing along the two-kilometer route from Phan Fa bridge, where soldiers first fired on the crowd on Monday, past the monument to the Royal Hotel, which overlooks the plaza where much of the killing occurred.

The memorial service was peaceful. No police were seen in the area. [passage omitted]

King, Suchinda Sign Amnesty for All in Unrest

BK2305180992 Bangkok Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1700 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] A royal act has been issued by the king granting an amnesty for offenders in the rallies on 17-21 May. The act was countersigned by Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun and takes effect as of 23 May.

The act says that the people involved in the rallies between 17 and 21 May, which blew up into a major event with offences being committed pertaining to damage to lives and property as well as clashes between the ralliers and government officials, were motivated by a desire for amendment of the Constitution, which is a legitimate right of the people, and with a view to quickly restoring peace and unity to the nation, the amnesty is therefore granted to offenders, or those involved in offenses.

Article 3 of the act says that all offenses committed during the period mentioned by plotters, supporters, those giving orders, or those receiving orders—those people are completely acquitted from all offenses or related responsibilities.

Papers Comment on King's Intervention

BK2305160392

[Editorial Report] Five Bangkok dailies, NAEO NA, SIAM RAT, MATICHON, BAN MUANG, and THAI RAT, on 22 and 23 May carry editorials commenting on the king's intervention which has brought a lull to the political unrest sparked by the pro-democracy rally in Bangkok on 17 May.

NAEO NA's 22 May editorial on page 4, entitled: "Falling Rain," expresses gratitude for the king's intervention to stop the internal strife. The editorial refers to the nationwide telecast on the night of 20 May, of a royal audience granted to General Suchinda Khraprayun and Major General Chamlong Simuang. It quotes the king's advice to them that their confrontation has brought disaster to the nation and that they must cooperate to prevent the nation from collapse. After their audience with the king, Gen. Suchinda and Maj. Gen. Chamlong appeared on television together pledging to the people to cooperate with each other on amending the Constitution and ending the strife. Gen. Suchinda also announced an amnesty for all arrested demonstrators.

"The royal advice given to Gen. Suchinda and Maj. Gen. Chamlong was like falling rain. It helped dissipate the heat and extinguish the fire that was raging the city. It has given freshness to the Thai people," the editorial notes, adding that the crowd demonstrating at the Ramkhamhaeng University campus dispersed on the morning of 21 May when "there was a sign that peace would return to Bangkok soon."

SIAM RAT's 22 May editorial on page 3, entitled: "Super Tragedy," says the riot and bloodshed on 17 May is a greater loss compared to the student uprising of 14 October 1973. The paper says: "We did not expect the situation to blow up like this as the government claimed from the beginning that it would be able to control the event by using peaceful means. Nevertheless, we the people from all walks of life and even foreigners witnessed that the so-called peaceful suppression was not at all different from a battlefield." The editorial then refers to the king's advice to Gen. Suchinda and Maj. Gen. Chamlong urging for a compromise. "This has suddenly brought peace back to the country," the editorial concludes.

MATICHON's 22 May page 8 editorial: "Looking Back on What Happened," says the country has been saved from destruction thanks to the king's intervention by bringing Suchinda and Chamlong face to face in a pledge to cooperate to end national strife through constitutional amendments. The editorial recalls how the people's wishes for an elected prime minister have been reflected through opinion polls conducted in Bangkok and the provinces. "It is regrettable the public's wish was not responded to by the National Legislative Assembly who had been assigned by the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] to draft the constitution," the paper says. As pressures peaked, Gen. Suchinda promised the public that he and other NPKC officers would not take the premiership and would instead return to the barracks. This helped relaxed the pressure to a certain extent. However, when Suchinda did not keep his promise and accepted the post of prime minister offered by the five coalition parties, he met with public rejection right away. The rift was not between military factions. Rather, it was a confrontation between democracy-loving people and those trying to put the country backward.

BAN MUANG's 23 May page 5 editorial: "Protected by the King's Power," also thanked the king for his intervention which has alleviated a national crisis caused by confrontation between two groups of people. The paper refers to the royal advice given to Suchinda and Chamlong. It looks forward to the parliamentary session on 25 May to thrash out political problems pertaining to constitutional amendments. Pending a solution, the editorial says cooperation is needed from all sides; the violence must stop; the government must provide complete aid to victims of the unrest and physically restore the damage caused by the disturbances. "The people are looking forward to the performance of members of parliament in urgently amending the errors in the constitution that do not conform with the democratic principles," the editorial concludes.

THAI RAT's page 3 editorial on 23 May, entitled: "Thanks to Royal Grace," welcomes the return of peace thanks to the king's intervention. The editorial says: "Another national tragedy has ended. From now on it will be the responsibility of Gen. Suchinda and Maj. Gen. Chamlong to carry out the wishes of his majesty and settle the national problem."

The editorial reviews political developments leading to the bloody riot—the pledge of the military junta right after the 23 February 1991 coup to return power to the people through an election; the drafting of the constitution; conflicts during the constitution drafting; NPKC's reluctance to return power to the people reflected by the overwhelming power given to the senate; and the crafting of a political party to back the military junta in power. The editorial recalls how all this resulted in strong pressure to force the junta leaders to promise not to be prime minister after the election. Yet, Gen. Suchinda did not keep his word. The paper concludes: "The constitutional amendment will achieve its goal in patching up the national division only if Gen. Suchinda is sincere. This is because he has the support of the 270- member senate as well as the MP's from the five coalition parties which command a majority in parliament."

NAEO NA's 23 May editorial on page 4, entitled: "With Sincerity and a Sense of Sacrifice," calls upon all parties concerned to place national interests above all and to solve the current crisis with a sense of sacrifice in response to the king's advice. The paper also holds that the matter will, from now on, be settled in the parliament. "However, the problem will not be settled easily since the parliamentary process for amending the constitution is lengthy. It would be even worse should the majority of the House and the Senate reject the points the opposition parties demand for the amendment. If that was the case, it is believed the opposition parties constituting a minority in the parliament would again resort to protests outside the parliament and result in another confrontation," the paper says.

Cabinet Not Consulted on Amnesty

BK2505142192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Watthana Atsawahem, the acting minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office and Chat Thai Party deputy leader, has said that the cabinet never met to consider the royal amnesty command. He said the document concerned was merely delivered to the cabinet.

Speaking to newsmen before attending the parliamentary meeting this morning, Watthana said he confirmed that there was no deliberation in the cabinet of the royal command granting amnesty to participants of the events of 17-20 May.

[Begin recording] [Watthana] The cabinet had no knowledge of the royal command. One night an envelope was delivered to inform us that the royal command was issued. We only knew of it when we opened the envelope. Normally, the royal commands must be presented to the house.

[Unidentified newsman] Can you confirm that there was no cabinet consideration on the matter?

[Watthana] No, the cabinet has not approved it.

Opposition to Amnesty Mounts

BK2605005192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 May 92 p 5

[Text] University lecturers and students as well as other pro- democracy organisations, both locally and abroad, have expressed opposition to the executive decree pardoning all concerned in the May 17-20 bloodshed, saying those responsible for the deaths and injuries must be punished.

Thammasat University's Faculty of Political Science lecturers yesterday issued an open letter calling for Parliament to oppose the Government's executive decree.

They said those responsible for ordering the killing must be subject to both legal and disciplinary action.

The letter was signed by 28 lecturers of the faculty, demanding that:

—The executive decree be ruled by Parliament as null and void because it is an obstacle to an attempt to heal the wound in society. The pains could be relieved only when justice prevails.

—Those responsible for giving orders to kill and hurt the people be brought to trial.

—The five political parties in the present caretaker government must also be held responsible for the tragedy because they colluded with the military by supporting Gen Suchinda Khraprayun for prime minister without listening to opposition from the people.

This led to the anti-Suchinda demonstrations and the subsequent suppression by force against the democrators.

The five parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—are no longer justified to form a new government, the letter said.

The lecturers said in the letter that they will not accept invitations for them to lecture at military institutes and will propose that the University Affairs Ministry suspend military study for students until the culprits face legal and disciplinary actions.

A joint statement containing similar calls was issued by groups of employees of the State Railway of Thailand, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives.

The statement said the five parties in the coalition must also be held responsible for the tragedy because an urgent Cabinet meeting on May 18 approved Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's proposal to declare the state of emergency and to use force to quell the demonstrators.

The four Opposition parties, which have made clear their intention from the beginning that the prime minister must be selected from among the elected MPs, should be given a chance to form a new government.

The five coalition parties are no longer qualified to take part in the formation, the statement said.

The state enterprise employees called for Parliament to quickly nominate a prime minister from among elected MPs after the constitutional amendments.

The Student Federation of Thailand (SFT) also issued an open letter opposing the executive decree that amnesties those concerned in the bloodshed of May 17-20.

The letter, signed by SFT secretary-general Prinya Thewanarumitkun, called for Parliament to set up a committee to conduct an investigation to legally prosecute and punish those responsible for the deaths of innocent and unarmed demonstrators.

Khon Kaen University's lecturers and students also issued an open letter of similar content.

They demanded that Gen Suchinda and his clique be held responsible for the loss of life and that the state of emergency be lifted immediately.

They urged Parliament to amend the Constitution as demanded by the people in one month and to reveal the real numbers of dead and injured as soon as possible.

Supreme Commander and Air Force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, Army Chief and director of the Capital Security Command Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Interior Minister ACM Anan Kalintha, and First Army commander Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi should show responsibility for the bloodshed by resigning.

The amnesty decree should be rejected, they said.

The five coalition parties should no longer take part in the formation of the new government.

The tragedy took place because they supported an outsider for the post of prime minister, they said.

There should be a law to control the movement of military forces to quell the people, the Khon Kaen University lecturers and students said.

The executive decree to amnesty all those concerned in the bloodshed of May 17-20 was also opposed by lecturers of Chulalongkon University.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the lecturers called for Parliament to oppose the executive decree and instead legislate a royal decree which does not cover those responsible for the deaths and injuries of demonstrators.

The statement also called for an immediate end to the state of emergency.

The Thai Community and Friends in Australia, in a letter to all newspaper editors in Thailand, said Gen Suchinda issued the executive decree with an intention to protect himself and those in his clique.

Deputy Premier Supports Amnesty

BK2505014392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 May 92 p A2

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan yesterday expressed his support for the royal decree which granted amnesty to the generals for their roles in the massacre of anti-Suchinda protesters.

Michai said the amnesty would restore mutual trust and reconciliation among all parties involved in the bloody crackdown on the pro-democracy movement which claimed more than 100 lives and injured several hundreds more.

The decree, signed by His Majesty the King and printed in the Royal Gazette on Saturday, took immediate effect in granting amnesty to all parties involved in the bloody incidents.

But pro-democracy groups have demanded that former prime minister Suchinda Khraprayun, Supreme Commander ACM Kaset Rotchananin and Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, held responsible for the killings, be excluded from the amnesty.

Suchinda yesterday stepped down as prime minister after the royal decree was issued.

Michai said it would be too complicated to detail in the decree as to who had done what wrong. A legal expert, Michai was also awarded the same Cabinet portfolio in the interim Anan administration following last year's coup.

Some opposition MPs have voiced their objection to granting of the amnesty, saying it would help the generals responsible for the massacre to go unpunished.

The MPs said it was unnecessary to grant the amnesty to the demonstrators because they had done nothing wrong. Instead, the amnesty would set another bad precedent for military dictators, they said.

The amnesty covers any action which resulted in loss of life, injury and damage to property during the May 17-21. [Sentence as published] It applies to demonstrators, as well as police and soldiers who killed and injured hundreds of people in the suppression.

The decree was attacked by pro-democracy groups as being designed to help the generals go unpunished.

Parliament is scheduled to sit today to debate whether to retroactively reject or approve the decree.

Michai's support for the decree came as no surprise as it was believed that the decree was the legal expert's brainchild.

Foreign Minister Cites Suchinda's 'Responsibility'

BK2305005692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 May 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun "must take responsibility" for this week's bloodshed on Ratchadamnoen Avenue by stepping down to improve Thailand's image, Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan said yesterday.

"All the information I have received confirms that the Prime Minister must bear responsibility for what happened," he told reporters.

"The information makes clear that the incidents will end and Thailand's image will improve if there is a change of prime minister, he said.

Mr Pongphon made these points, at times in tears, after he was asked if he personally believed Gen Suchidna should continue as prime minister.

He was speaking at a press conference in the Bua Kaeo Room of the Foreign Ministry after briefing foreign ambassadors.

He stressed that a solution to the conflict would be worked out in Parliament, according to His Majesty the King's wishes.

He said MPs were talking about setting up a House fact-finding committee to investigate what actually happened in the events of the past few days. The committee would be made up of representatives from all parties.

Asked if he himself, as a member of the government, was prepared to resign to take responsibility for the events, he replied that he had heeded the call of duty in deciding to remain in his post, though not without some "struggle."

He said: "I am now in a struggle between feelings and responsibility. If I had chosen my feelings, I would not be sitting here. When it comes to responsibility, I have to do my duty.

"If eveyyone were to stop playing their parts now, what could be done next? We have to go forward to bring about a solution. If everyone were to flee, who would stay to deal with what has happened?"

He said the coalition parties had not been informed and would never have agreed to the suppression of demonstrators.

"But since it has taken place, we as partners in the government and members of Parliament have to do what we believe is best under the circumstances."

Asked how people could be sure that constitutional amendments would be obtained from senators, who have been handpicked by the National Peace-Keeping Council, he replied that he was confident the senators would pose no problems, pointing out that they are fellow Thais who also have "a conscience and feelings."

He said efforts to deal with situation were being made through parliamentary channels, according to His Majesty's wishes.

But the efforts were subject to parliamentary rules and regulations, and hence the outcome "may not be as many of you wish or within the time-frame desired."

Asked if MPs feared that the military would do as they did on February 23 last year—when a coup d'etat ousted the elected government of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and brought in the National Peace-keeping Council—he said:

"The only thing that MPs fear is a dissolution of Parliament."

He pointed out that he had been assigned to what he stressed was a difficult job, the task of public relations to improve Thailand's image in the eyes of the international community.

"You all know that this is a difficult task to accomplish at a time like this," he said. [passage omitted]

Suchinda Announces Resignation From Premiership

BK2405051492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0415 GMT 24 May 92

[Speech by Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun simultaneously broadcast by Bangkok Army Television Channels 5 and 7 and Bangkok Color Television Channels 3 and 9—recorded]

[Text] Beloved compatriots, after His Majesty the King has graciously granted an audience to Major General Chamlong Simuang and me together with the chairman of the Privy Council and a member of the Privy Council and statesman, and has instructed Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang and me to turn to and help each other in resolving the problem of the ongoing protest rally—the details of which you have learned from radio and television broadcasts—I would like to inform you that I have wholeheartedly accepted the wish of his majesty the king for implementation. Relying on the royal command, we have taken action together. As a result, the situation has gradually improved. The people attending the rally finally dispersed, thus contributing to gradual improvement in the situation. And to create unity among the people, the cabinet has taken steps to release most of the people who were arrested and detained and to enact an amnesty act for those involved in the rally. At the same time, to give assistance to the people, we have set up a committee to take steps in giving financial and medical assistance to those who were injured and the families of those who lost their lives. We have also set up an agency to follow up on reports on those who are still missing. As for the call by the people to amend the Constitution on various points, I have coordinated with the government coalition parties to urgently submit a motion for constitutional amendment to the National Assembly. The government coalition parties have already submitted this motion to the National Assembly. To speed up amendment of the Constitution, I have coordinated with and asked the speaker of the National Assembly to kindly convene a special House session to debate this motion on Monday, 25 May 1992. The speaker of the National Assembly has already taken steps to do this. Therefore, I have fulfilled the need of the people and the royal command.

I strongly regret the events which have occurred and the clash between government authorities and the people, which resulted in the loss of lives and injuries to both government authorities and the people, as well as damage to government and private property. Although the situation has improved, psychological damage to the people and damage to the national economy remain and will take a long time to be eradicated. Therefore, to show political responsibility and to allow amendment of the Constitution to proceed in an impartial manner, I have resigned from the post of prime minister.

Respected fraternal Thai people, I hope that from now on all sides will put aside suspicion and apprehension and create love and unity and turn to cooperate with each other to work to restore and develop the nation to the best of their ability for the benefit and happiness of the country and the people.

Thank you.

Present Government To Act as Caretaker

BK2405103092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1000 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Speaking to newsmen at the Air Force headquarters airport this afternoon after welcoming back the crown prince from a foreign visit, Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan said in connection with the prime minister's resignation, that the present cabinet will serve as a caretaker government until a new government is formed. He gave an assurance that no outsider would be proposed as the new prime minister. He said opposition parties can join the new coalition depending on the support from members of parliament.

Government Lifts State of Emergency

BK2605054892 Bangkok Television Channel 9 in Thai 0512 GMT 26 May 92

["Announcement" on lifting of state of emergency—read by announcer]

[Text] Pursuant to the declaration of a state of emergency for Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, and Samut Sakhon provinces at 0030 on 18 May 1992, it appears now that the said state of emergency has ended and it is deemed appropriate to terminate the declaration of the state of emergency. Empowered by Articles 4 and 21 of the 1952 National Act on Administration in the State of Emergency, the prime minister and interior minister declare the state of emergency to be terminated. This is effective from 1200 on 26 May 1992.

Announced on 26 May 1992.

Signed—Michai Ruchuphan, deputy prime minister, acting prime minister.

Signed—Air Chief Marshal Anan Kalintha, acting interior minister.

Coalition Leader on Submission of Amendment Draft

BK2205152292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The five coalition parties have already submitted a four-point constitution amendment draft without the transitional clause to the parliament for consideration.

Representatives of the five coalition parties, namely Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongran, Chat Thai Party leader Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet, Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit, and Chaiphak Siriwat, secretary general of Ratsadon Party, and members of the coaltion parties jointy submitted a constitution amendment draft to Phaisit Phiphatthanakun, secretary general of the Parliament, this afternoon. The draft will be presented to the parliamentary session on 25 May.

Speaking on behalf of the five parties, Montri Phongphanit explained the four-point amendment to the constitution as follows:

[Begin recording] [Montri, in progress] ...held consultations on the constitution amendment, which we believe can settle the problem. The amendment is designed to develop democracy in line with the aspirations of all sides and achieve reconciliation so as to restore peace in the country. The five coalition parties have unanimously agreed that the amendment draft will be brought to Parliament for consideration on Monday, 25 May. The proposed amendment contains four major points as follows: first, the house speaker will also serve as parliament president; second, the senators' power to submit no-confidence debates against the government will be revoked; third, draft bills and motions can also be submitted for debate in the second biannual session of Parliament; fourth, we desire that the prime minister come from the election and command more than half of the votes in the house. Our draft has no transitional clause. [end recording]

Asked by a news correspondent whether or not the five coalition parties will continue their support for General Suchinda Khraprayun so that the latter can remain in the post of prime minister, Montri calmly replied that the five parties have no power or duty to take such action. What they can do is turn to each other instead of being confrontational, as advised by his majesty the king. He said:

[Begin recording] [Montri] No one can win in any confrontation. Everyone will lose. It is good practice to compromise to settle disputes.

[Unidentified correspondent] If the government enacts a law to grant amnesty to those who killed the people—not those who were arrested—will you, in your capacity as deputy prime minister, support that move?

[Montri] We have not yet discussed the details of the law. The parliament will have to consider the draft bill first. [end recording]

Parliament Approves Constitution Amendments

BK2505134992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 25 May 92

[Report by unidentified Public Relations Department correspondent on 25 May afternoon session of parliament debating Constitution amendments—recorded]

[Excerpts] The afternoon session of the combined meeting of Parliament on the amendment of the Constitution began at 1335. The meeting was chaired by Athit Urairat, the parliament vice president. The meeting debated amendment of Article 127 of the Constitution to allow the second biannual session of the houses to consider any issue in the same manner allowed in the first biannual session. Both the opposition and government sides submitted their drafts on this issue. The meeting decided to debate the drafts together. Acting Phalang Tham Party leader Admiral Siri Sirirangsi, representing the opposition bloc, explained the reason for the motion. He said the motion was aimed at enabling the meetings of Parliament and both houses to consider any issue in conformity with the intentions and principles of administration under the democratic system. Police Lieutenant Chawarin Latthasaksiri, representing the government parties, explained that the aim of his motion was to allow Parliament to consider issues of unlimited scope. The meeting approved in principle the amendment by 542 votes, with four abstentions. The meeting then considered the amendments in all articles by a full-house commission.

The meeting then considered amendment of the Constitution concerning reduction of the Senate's authority to make the Senate merely the house for vetoing or scrutinizing draft bills. Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai explained that the draft amendment was aimed at curtailing the authority of senators and depriving them of the power to call for and cast a confidence vote against the government. [passage omitted]

The meeting approved in principle the amendment on this issue by 535 votes with seven abstentions. The full-house commission's consideration in the second reading decided to remove all transitional clauses.

The meeting then considered the Constitution amendment on the necessity of the prime minister being an MP. The meeting voted 533 with nine abstentions to approve the amendment in principle.

The meeting today approved in principle and completed the second reading to amend the Constitution in four points. Parliament must wait for 15 days for the meeting to vote on the final reading. The president set 10 June as the date for the vote on the final reading. The meeting concluded at 1855 today.

Dailies Comment on Formation of New Government

BK26051[illegible]92

[Editorial Report] Four Thai-language dailies—MATICHON, THAI RAT, BAN MUANG, and SIAM RAT—carry editorials in their 26 May issues on the formation of a new government following the recent political turmoil.

MATICHON's 550-word editorial on page 8, entitled "The Formation of a New Government," says that in addition to the constitutional amendments, another issue which has drawn great attention is the formation of a new government. Someone has suggested that following the recent political tragedy, an interim government be set up to ensure the completion of the constitutional amendments and then to call for a general election to let the people make a decision. It will be the business of the members of the House of Representatives to select a new prime minister to replace General Suchinda Khraprayun. The five government parties have expressed their desire to join together to form a new government. However, there are some objections to this, with calls instead that these five parties show their political spirit as they had earlier ignored public opinion and had tried to delay the constitutional amendments. "After the constitutional amendments sailed through two readings at parliament, the formation of a new government has drawn the attention of the people who are watching whether these five parties of the old coalition government will have political spirit and principles."

Concluding, the editorial says "No matter which parties constitute it, the new government should not forget to investigate those who are responsible for using violence to deal with the demonstrations. It should set up a special committee to investigate this to prevent its recurrence."

THAI RAT's 500-word editorial on page 3, entitled "We Should Not Trust The Five Parties," says that although there was "democracy"—having a constitution, general election, political parties, and a parliament, Thai politics in the past has been dominated by the military wheel with political parties reduced to being its cog. Following the recent bloodshed, the Social Action Party leader and the Chat Thai Party secretary general tried to claim that the government coalition parties did not know about the declaration of the state of emergency and the use of force in dealing with the demonstrators.

Concluding, the editorial says that "their claims cannot help the government coalition parties avoid the responsibility over the severe damages caused by the incident because under the parliamentary system, the whole cabinet has to be held jointly responsible. As a result, they should not be trusted as a core in forming the new government, except if parliament is dissolved and power returned to the people in a new general election."

BAN MUANG's 550-word editorial on page 5, entitled: "Joint Effort for Rehabilitation," notes that five parties—the Samakki Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Ratsadon, Prachakon Thai parties—are trying to form an elected government in line with the desire of the people and the democratic system. Chat Thai Party Leader Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong is expected to be selected as the prime minister to help improve the country's social, economic, and trade situation. The government will also have to help solve the serious drought affecting a large number of farmers nationwide.

The editorial says that under the current situation, the new government must have more political and parliamentary stability than that of the previous governments. "When we have an elected prime minister as desired by the people, the parties which have been neutral and upholding the democratic principles should join the government to help the country survive the crisis."

Concluding, the editorial says: "We believe that Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, who has been getting support to become the new prime minister, will receive cooperation from other parties beside the five which have already extended their support. The opposition Democrat Party, which has enjoyed great public trust as it has strictly upheld its ideology, should join the administration to help improve the situation."

SIAM RAT's 600-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "It Is Better To Follow the Rules," says certain groups are claiming that they want a government from certain parties or that they do not want certain parties to form a new government. "These demands are not considered to be wrong in the free democratic system. However, we want these demands to be based on the democratic rules. If we still consider that parliament, which comprises members elected by the people, as the significant part of the democratic system, we should then let parliament be responsible for the selection of the new prime minister, who will in turn form the new government." The editorial says that although the new government line-up may comprise the same five old coalition partners, we should exercise restraint and follow the performance of the government. If we are not satisfied with it we can exercise our right in line with the rules by not voting for the members of these parties in the next general election.

"We want the people to play a role in line with the democratic system by preserving and using these rules. We also do not want to see any particular group staging demonstrations to get what they want by attacking parties on the other side of the democratic system," the editorial says.

Group Seeks Removal of Kaset, Itsaraphong

BK2605133492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Today, 15 representatives of the Federation for Democracy led by Dr. San Hatthirat submitted a letter to the Defense Ministry calling for the investigation of Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, the director of internal peacekeeping, and General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, the director of the Capital Security Command, on their role in ordering the suppression of those who participated in the recent antigovernment rallies. The federation wants them punished by forcing them to resign from their posts.

The federation representatives then proceeded to the Interior Ministry to submit a letter to the permanent secretary asking him to quickly supply details about all missing persons and investigate and punish the officials who ordered the use of arms against the people. The letter also asked that compensation for damages incurred not be made from the national revenue. The Interior Ministry was also asked to release protestors still in police custody.

Foreign Minister Comments on Suchinda's Status

BK2605133292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Caretaker Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan, commenting on foreign countries' reaction to recent political events in Thailand as a violation of the UN human rights charter, said the Foreign Ministry will have to try to remedy the situation. However, in reality national image depends on the domestic situation. Everything has begun to improve, including the resignation of the prime minister, passage of amendments to the Constitution in two readings in a single day, and discontinuation of the state of emergency.

Asked if General Suchinda Khraprayun contacted the Foreign Ministry for asylum abroad, Pongphon said the Foreign Ministry has not been approached. He noted that while the Foreign Ministry must process an asylum request, it is also possible to use other channels to seek asylum. He said at this time Suchinda's status could not be ruled as a criminal or a person qualified for political asylum. Legally, Suchinda is still regarded as a Thai citizen. Although several groups have sought his arrest on the charge of involvement in the recent events, it is the authority of the police to rule by law if he is guilty.

House Speaker Requests New National Government

BK2605135492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] House Speaker Athit Urairat calls on all political parties to jointly form a national government for national rehabilitation, forgetting their past status as government parties or opposition parties.

The house speaker made this statement during an interview with reporters at the Siam City Hotel this afternoon. He also said that he had sent letters to all political parties to seek their cooperation in this regard. He also asked them to report their decisions to him within three days so that the formation of a new government could be completed within a week to rehabilitate the country.

Ukrit Resigns as Parliament President, Senator

BK2605123292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin has sent a letter to the royal secretary asking him to inform the king of his resignation as parliament president and member of the Senate effective today. Explaining his decision, Ukrit said the political events and the amendment of the Constitution, which carried no transitional clause as approved by the parliament, were the reasons for his resignation.

Acting Premier Favors Dissolving Parliament

BK2605101692 Bangkok TNA in English 0945 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 26 (OANA-TNA)—Interim Prime Minister Michai Ruchupan said Tuesday he believed the dissolution of Parliament was the best way to break the political impasse presently facing the country.

Michai, the first deputy prime minister of the outgoing government of Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, said he had the authority to dissolve the Parliament but would only do so at the request of political parties.

After announcing his resignation on Sunday, Suchinda took leave and the interim premiership automatically passed on to Michai. Suchinda's whereabout has still been unknown.

Michai said the political power should be returned to the people who, through another general election, decide who should form the new government.

The formation of new government has become a very difficult problem. A lot of people claimed that five coalition parties must be held responsible for last week's unrest which left scores of people killed and several hundred injured. The five parties are blamed for inviting Gen. Suchinda to be prime minister and still pledged thier support for the non-elected premier when the public's opposition ran high last week before it escalated into unrests.

There are fears that if the five coalition which constitute the majority in the House of Representatives, form the new government, they would not receive public endorsement like the Suchinda-led government, or even stir another mass demonstration.

Meanwhile, political observers see that it is unlikely that the four opposition parties which have less votes would form the government with one of the five coalition parties.

The interim cabinet's meeting chaired by Michai on Tuesday decided to lift the state of emergency imposed by Gen. Suchinda last week. The anouncement lifting the state of emergency was made in the afternoon.

Gen. Chawalit Appointed Opposition Leader

BK2305043092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0400 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] At 0830 today, Phaisit Phiphatthanakun delivered the royal appointment of New Aspiration Party leader General Chawalit Yongchaiyut as the opposition leader, effective from 15 May, to Gen. Chawalit at his home in Nonthaburi Province. After receiving the royal appointment command, Gen. Chawalit told newsmen that all sides should heed the king's direction on resolution of the national problem and should cooperate to create national reconciliation and quickly heal the wounds.

Regarding public aversion toward the prime minister, Gen. Chawalit said various sides have tried to resolve the problem, so he hoped that there would be no violence. He said he was pleased to hear that the government parties had submitted a draft for amendment of the Constitution without a provisional clause, noting however that he has not actually seen details of the draft. In any event, he said that right from the beginning he had asked members of Parliament, both the government and opposition sides, to mind the honor and prestige of their elective posts and to cooperate to work for national interests, rather partisan interests.

Opposition, Coalition Fight To Form Government

BK2505010192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 May 92 p A2

[Text] As soon as embattled Suchinda Khraprayun resigned as prime minister yesterday, the two political blocs began wrangling for the top government post.

The opposition bloc of the Phalang Tham, Democrat, Solidarity and New Aspiration parties, with a total of 163 MPs, would have to break the promilitary five-party coalition to win enough parliamentary support to be able to form a government.

The opposition parties need to convince either the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai or Social Action parties, with 79, 74 and 31 House seats respectively, to desert the coalition and join their bloc.

Hectic behind-the-scenes lobbying is expected this week as it is possible for either of the two blocs to form a new coalition government.

Sources said key members of the Samakkhi Tham Party met yesterday at an undisclosed location. The Chat Thai Party held an urgent meeting on Saturday night at the residence of party secretary general Banhan Sinlapa-acha.

The four-party bloc is expected to pay less attention to the other two partners in the current coalition, the Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties, which have seven and four MPs respectively.

Support from Ratsadon would not provide enough seats for the opposition bloc to form a government, while Prachakon Thai leader Samak Suntharawet has an image problem because of his die-hard support for Suchinda. Samak has made comments in defence of Suchinda who has been widely denounced and held responsible for the massacre of pro-democracy protesters.

The manoeuvring to form a new government officially began yesterday when House Speaker Athit Urairat invited leaders of the nine parties to sound out their opinions on the new administration.

However, Ratsadon leader Mana Ratanakoset was the only party leader to meet Athit, while other parties sent representatives. As a result, the consultations on the new government did not take place.

Late last night the chances seemed good for the opposition bloc to replace the present coalition in forming the new government, as the five parties which supported Suchinda have been attacked over their support for the military leaders blamed for the slaying of demonstrators.

Dr San Hatthirat, chairman of the Confederation for Democracy formed to spearhead the anti-Suchinda protests, said he held the coalition jointly responsible for the carnage which is believed to have claimed more than 100 lives.

"The five parties no longer have legitimacy to form a new government as they were involved in the killing of the people," San said.

Political observers said if the opposition failed to break apart the coalition, Chat Thai leader Sombun Rahong seemed to be emerging as the only acceptable choice as prime minister from among MPs of the current coalition.

His party is the second largest in the House of Representatives. The biggest party, Samakkhi Tham, is led by Narong Wongwan who earlier met strong opposition when nominated for the premiership, because of allegations linking him to the international drug trade.

But observers questioned whether Sombun, who resigned from the air force with the rank of air chief marshal, would want to face the current strong public sentiment against the military.

Sombun yesterday remained non-committal on whether he would accept the top government post, saying only that no deal had been made among the current coalition partners.

Narong said yesterday that the coalition would meet in a few days to discuss the formation of a new Cabinet which might take a week.

In the opposition bloc, either Democrat leader Chuan Likphai or his New Aspiration counterpart Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut were being strongly tipped as the front-runners to head any new government if moves to break the current government coalition were successful.

Chawalit appeared to have a better chance because his party commands 72 MPs.

But he was a retired general and was suspected of somehow contributing to the violence in the demonstrations against Suchinda. He was accused of hiring instigators to cause damage to government properties.

Charges Filed Against Suchinda, Army Chiefs

BK2505015992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 May 92 p 1

[Text] About 200 people filed charges at the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) yesterday afternoon, accusing former prime minister Suchinda Khraprayun and other key figures in the government and the military of ordering the shooting of pro-democracy demonstrators which reportedly left at least 100 dead.

Other suspects include Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, Army Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Interior Minister ACM Anan Kalintha, and First Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi.

Representatives of the group met with Pol Col Chumpon Munmai, Superintendant 2, and discussed legal procedures in filing charges leading to the prosecution of the five men.

They said the orders given by the five men had resulted in death, injury, and forceful detention, and they must be brought to justice.

The CSD accepted all charges for legal action.

Early on Saturday, about 500 Chiang Mai residents filed charges with the police against Gen Suchinda and his top military officers.

People, Students Rally at Parliament Building

BK2505064192 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 0600 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] A number of people and students have gathered in front of the National Assembly building since this morning to listen to the joint parliament session. Some groups carried banners to mourn the heroes who were killed during the unrest a few days ago and banners calling on military leaders to be responsible for the relevant events. When a bus carrying soldiers passed that area, the people booed and jeered to express their dissatisfaction.

Chalat Worachat, former Trat member of parliament, also appeared at the rally.

Ralliers Support Chawalit for Premiership

BK2505074692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 25 may 92

[Report by a Public Relations Department correspondent in front of National Assembly Building—live or recorded]

[Text] As of reporting time, a large number of pro-democracy people are rallying in front of the National Assembly building. The demonstrators carried antigovernment banners and called for New Aspiration Party Leader General Chawalit Yongchaiyut to become the prime minister.

Representatives from different groups delivered speeches on various issues, such as the selection of a new prime minister and events in the past. The rally drew attention from the people who clapped their hands periodically.

The rally is expected to continue until the Parliament session is closed.

Vietnam

U.S. War Veterans Study Progress on MIA Issue

BK2305095992 Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 23—A delegation from Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in the United States had made a three-day visit to Hanoi to look into progress on the MIA issue.

The leader of the delegation, which left on Thursday, was Mr. Robert E. Wallace, president of VFW. The two other members were K. Steadman, VFW security director, and Ms. V.B. Foote, director of the U.S.-Vietnam Chamber of Commerce of the American International Centre.

USAID Delegation Visits To Aid War Victims

BK2305161792 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 23—A delegation of the U.S. Aid for International Development (USAID) led by Mr. Lloyd Feinberg has paid a six-day visit to Vietnam to see how to help Vietnamese war victims.

The delegation which left here Thursday had discussions with officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Health Ministry and the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs on Vietnam's humanitarian needs for artificial limbs, healthcare, and job training for the disabled.

The guests toured various rehabilitation centres and orthopedics wards in some hospitals in Hanoi and the provinces of Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe an and Quang Nam-Danang.

They expressed their satisfaction at the results of the visit, and said they would submit to their government an early programme for humanitarian aid to Vietnam in fiscal 1992.

Repatriation, Reintegration Plan Makes Progress

BK2405073092 Hanoi VNA in English 0544 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 24—Good results have been obtained in the first phase of the EC programme for the repatriation and reintegration of asylum seekers which is to end later this month, VIETNAM NEWS quoted deputy programme director (?Hon Tuan Bao) as saying.

The programme, started a year ago, is the first cooperation between the EC and Vietnam, and the results of the first phase of the programme have shown many prospects of further cooperation.

According to Mr. Bao, the programme has brought about efficient results in creating many jobs in urban and rural areas through credit schemes in raising training capabilities of vocationl training centre, improving health and hygiene conditions, building and up-grading infrastructure facilities in localities with a big returnee population. The programme has contributed to the stabilization of the lives of the returnees and other people in target areas.

The positive results have encouraged many Vietnamese people from camps in Hong Kong and other parts of Southeast Asia to return home voluntarily. Illegal departures have dropped considerably. In some months, nobody left the country at all.

Overall results are good in all the main components of the programme.

In training, the programme has supported 28 centres in Haiphong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City by refurbishing schools, providing of machines and equipment, starter kits, teaching materials and school fees for returnees and incentives to teachers. Starter kits are given to the best trainees of each course so that they can create jobs themselves after finishing the course. Besides, the programme supplies recommendation letters to returnees who are able to set up business to borrow loans from credit banks. With the support of the EC-Vietnam programme, 28 training centres offered 6,699 new places and 2,616 trainees have been enrolled, among them 388 returnees.

Regarding credit schemes, which are viewed as a most effective way to create jobs and develop production, the programme has endorsed a budget of some 2.6 million US dollars for this activity. Through services of Industry and Commerce Bank (ICB) and the Bank of Agriculture (VBA), the programme had approved, by mid-April, 2,166 short-term and medium-term loans totalling 2.038 million US dollars. About 5,600 new jobs have been created for returnees and other people. The loans are mainly to support private householders, farmers, small- and medium-sized business in urban and rural areas to develop agriculture, aquaculture, handicraft, consumer goods production and daily services.

The programme has also contributed to the improvement of infrastructure through micro-projects such as land reclamation, construction of aquaculture areas, the construction of roads, clinics, schools, kindergartens, electrical and water supply systems in new settlement of overpopulated areas with low socio-economic conditions.

During the first phase the programme has granted five micro-projects in Haiphong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City with a total of 500,000 US dollars. The projects are under construction and will be put to use soon.

The implementation of these micro-projects has generated thousands of temporary jobs, and when these projects are completed, hundreds of families will settle down in their new homes.

As the first phase is drawing to an end, preparations are being made for the second.

On February 27, "modalities of organization" were signed between representatives of the Vietnamese Government and the EC. Phase II will last 30 months with a budget of about 102.5 million ECU (nearly 120 million US dollars) from the EC and other donors. The programme will be extended to 18 cities and provinces where many returnees live.

On April 23, a "financing memorandum" was signed between the EC and the Vietnamese Government confirming the first support of 22.5 million ECU by the EC for Phase II.

Canadian Businessmen Explore Investment Projects

BK2505085992 Hanoi VNA in English 0610 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—A high-level mission of Saint-Martino, a large Quebec-based joint stock company, visited Ho Chi Minh City from May 11 to 23 to study possibilities of investment in large-scale projects in southern Vietnam. The projects include the building of a dairy factory at the cost of 15 million dollars this year, a joint venture with leather products export-import (leaprodexim) in building a five-star hotel in the city with an investment capital of 30 million dolars, and the establishment of an agent for the supply of insecticides and fertilizers to southern provinces. The Saint-Martino mission also considered the opening of a branch office of World Saint-Martino Bank in Ho Chi Minh City. Its two-week visit also included meetings on the construction of energy projects, tourist services, and infrastructure projects in the fields of communications and transport.

Joint Venture With PRC To Build Trade Complex

BK2305100192 Hanoi VNA in English 0656 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 23—A ground-breaking ceremony was held in Pinxiang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China, for the construction of a Sino-Vietnamese quarter with a total investment capital of 4 million yuan (Chinese currency).

The quarter covering an area of 4.1 hectares will be furnished with shops, warehouses, two-lane roads, and a car park. It is aimed at promoting trade across the common border between the two countries.

Zhao Tingguang, vice-chairman of the Chinese province of Yunnan has received a visiting agricultural survey delegation of northern Vietnam provinces led by Nguyen Van Cat, head of Lai Chau's Agriculture and Forestry service. The two sides discussed measures and forms of agricultural cooperation.

Czech Envoy Visits Southern Province

BK2305153592 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 23—Ambassador Jan Gonzor of the Federal Republic of Czech and Slovakia recently paid a working visit to the southern province of Can Tho.

He affirmed the traditional friendship between the two peoples and their desire to continue bilateral ties on the basis of mutual benefit.

The delegation discussed with the provincial leaders the probability of undertaking economic devlopment projects in Can Tho concerning the supply of equipment, and the building of a roof processing factory and infrastructure facilities.

For his part Truong Duc Uy, vice chairman of the Can Tho People's Committee, expressed his wish to cooperate with Czechoslovakia in many domains for economic development in the province, especially in agriculture.

The delegation visited many places in the province, including a packaging material factory, the Meko Food Processing Enterprise, The Commerce and Tourist Service, and the Culture and Information Service.

Increased Malaysian Trade Interest Applauded

BK2405094592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Only two weeks after Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's visit to Vietnam, a delegation of the Malaysian Ministry of Energy, Posts, and Telecommunication arrived here for a visit. Evidently, Malaysian leaders and its business community are paying much attention to Vietnam. On this issue, our radio has this to say.

Obviously, the ASEAN countries, particularly Malaysia, are paying great attention to Vietnam. The Malaysian Government leader, Mr. Mahathir Mohamed affirmed in Hanoi in late April that his country is really interested in Vietnam and wished to establish its economic and trade ties with Vietnam. He also said that Malaysia wants to take part in economic development in Vietnam.

It is for this reason that right after his official visit to this country, the Malaysian prime minister sent a high-ranking delegation of the Ministry of Energy, Posts, and Telecommunications headed by Ms. Normin Shah, general secretary to Vietnam, to promote the outcome of his visit. During her stay in Vietnam, Ms. Normin Shah reached agreement with Vietnam on cooperation on energy. She has this to tell our radio correspondent:

[Begin Normin Shah recording] Malaysia will assist in the implementation of the 500 kv transmission line from North to South of Vietnam project, in respect of the supply and financing of aluminium conductors, steelwire ropes, and line construction tools. We plan to have joint venture projects in the areas of manufacture of electricity equipment such as conductors, keyboards, electricity meters, and switch gears.

We would also undertake training and human resource development in the area of electric utility activities and the priority area will be the training of engineers from Vietnam in the operation of the load dispatching center, and this training is to be in Malaysia. Malaysia will also help in the exchange of information on areas such as electricity planning, energy resource development, technology development, and operation and maintenance management.

We would conduct, we would organize study tours, seminars, workshops, and forums to assist and expose participants to the latest developments in electricity. We offer consultancy and expert services in the areas of load inspection projects, system development, distribution rehabilitation, operational and engineering efficiency, and improvement feasibility studies on hydroelectric and thermal power projects as well as master plan studies.

We had a very interesting visit to Vietnam. Of course, we know the history of Vietnam, that you are one of the few countries that has managed to win the war against the U.S. and so we would expect that a country that can do that would have a lot of resilience. And while Vietnam is still underdeveloped, we foresee that with the manpower that you have and help from other countries, from other developing countries like Malaysia you could develop very fast. In fact, you will be developing, I think, within the next, very rapidly, within the next five to 10 years. [end recording]

UNFPA Grants U.S. Dollars to Vietnam

BK2505073792 Hanoi VNA in English 0619 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—The United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPa) will grant 36 million USd to Vietnam's family planning and population programme in the 1992-95 period.

This was made known by candidate doctor Nguyen Luc, deputy head of the Vietnam Committee for Population and Family Planning, who had just returned from the recent 39th session of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Earlier, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, had pledged that Vietnam would try its best to effectively carry out its population and family planning programme aimed at rationally reducing the population growth rate and gradually ameliorating the people's living conditions.

Apart from the UNFPA funding, foreign delegates to the session in separate meetings with the Vietnamese delegation promised to help Vietnam in implementing this programme.

Foreign Minister on Nonaligned Movement

BK2205090592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Dear friends, as reported earlier, a ministerial conference of the Coordinating Committee of the Nonaligned Movement was held in Bali, Indonesia on 14-15 May in anticipation of its forthcoming 10th summit conference. The Vietnamese Government delegation led by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam attended this conference. On this occasion, the Voice of Vietnam correspondent interviewed the foreign minister on issues discussed at the conference and the relations between Vietnam and countries of the Nonaligned Movement. The following is Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam's statement:

[Begin recording] The world situation at present is in a transition period leading to a new stage. It is quite difficult to predict what the situation will be in the next decade. [words indistinct] in this context, the Nonaligned Movement is striving to carry out its objectives, principles, and activities to maintain and develop its role to suit the changing situation. The Bali Conference again asserted the significant role of the Nonaligned Movement and the common objectives and fundamental aspiration of its member countries to defend national independence, restore peace, and promote development. Countries of the Nonaligned Movement must strengthen their unity and expand cooperation to ensure that a new world order is built on the basis of the principles of justice and equality, respecting the independence and sovereignty of nations, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, free from foreign imposition; and promoting democratization, international relations, and UN activities.

The conference asserted the nonaligned countries' pressing demands for equality and sovereignty, the abolition of injustice in the relations between strong and weak nations and between the rich and the poor.

Regarding the issue of peace and security—problems of prime concern to the Nonaligned Movement—the Bali Conference held that economic development is of great significance to the movement. Moreover, human rights, the environment, drug addiction, the people's standard of living, and social justice are also issues of prime concern to the nonaligned nations. For Vietnam, participation in the Nonaligned Movement is its consistent line and is part of its policy on diversification of international relations. Vietnam is striving to positively contribute to promoting solidarity among countries in the movement so as to build a healthier new world politico-economic order on the basis of the principles set by the Bali Conference. The conference also appraised activities of the movement vis-a-vis current international relations and contended that the movement can still play an important role in improving the political life of the world, especially in poor and small countries at present.

To implement the open door policy and to positively contribute to the activities of the Nonaligned Movement while working according to the conference agenda, I also made contacts with heads of delegations from Laos, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Mongolia, Egypt, Iran, Gambia, Oman, and so forth to exchange views with them on the international situation, the Nonaligned Movement, and the expansion of cooperation between Vietnam and their countries. Generally speaking, these meetings took place in an atmosphere of openess and cooperation and these delegations shared Vietnam's views on issues related to international issues and the Nonaligned Movement, especially the movement's role and objectives in the current situation. They also passed on their best wishes and respects to the Vietnamese people, welcomed our renovation and new foreign policy, hailed our initial yet important achievements, and asserted their wish to expand cooperation with us, especially in economic and trade domains on the basis of equality and mutual interests. In particular, the Indonesian President and Foreign Minister Ali Alatus have attached importance to promoting relations with Vietnam. They have proposed concrete measures aimed at expanding bilateral economic and trade relations and shared a determination to soon resolve issues related to the border delineation and the continental shelf between the two nations in accordance with agreements reached by Council of Minister Chairman Vo Van Kiet and President Suharto during the latter's visit to Indonesia in October 1991. Malaysia and Singapore have stressed the necessity to quickly implement important agreements reached during their recent summit conference with Vietnam. Iran expressed the desire to exchange economic and trade delegations with Vietnam, while Egypt, Gambia, and Italy have sent delegations to Vietnam to make feasibility studies to promote cooperation between Vietnam and African countries. They expressed the hope that Vietnam will soon send delegations to visit African nations and other adjacent countries.

The attitude of goodwill and cooperation shown by these countries toward Vietnam indicates a trend toward an intensification of South-South cooperation among countries of the Nonaligned Movement. Through these achievements, we have realized that the foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and diversification of international relations set by the Seventh CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Congress is correct, effective, and in conformity with the developmental trend of the current world situation.

Vietnam will continue to carry out the objectives set by the Bali Conference and will expand cooperation with all countries, especially those in the region, in order to contribute to maintaining cooperation among members of the Nonaligned Movement, defend mutual interests and strategies of the movement, and protect our interests and concepts on the basis of respect for the general views of the movement. In this context, from now to the 10th Nonaligned Movement Summit Conference, Vietnam will actively exchange views and cooperate with Indonesia—the host country and the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement—in drafting documents of the summit on the basis of mutual trust. Vietnam will implement its commitment to the movement by sending a high-ranking delegation to the summit conference and will help Indonesia in mobilizing Nonaligned Movement member countries for their full participation in the Jakarta Summit Conference so as to help it meet requirements and overcome challenges in the turning-point period. Moreover, Vietnam will consistently participate in and actively contribute to the activities of the Coordination Committee of the Nonaligned Movement in New York to make good preparations for its forthcoming 10th Summit Conference. [end recording]

Khanh Addresses Symposium on ASEAN Cooperation

BK2305101392 Hanoi VNA in English 0637 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 23—"Vietnam shares Malaysia's idea of building a new Southeast Asia with all countries in the region joining in peaceful co-existence and mutually beneficial cooperation", said Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh at the Second International Symposium on Vietnam-ASEAN cooperation opened in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on May 21.

During the three-day symposium, the participants will review the process of cooperation between Vietnam and the six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) especially in economic development.

Mr. Nguyen Khanh, head of the Vietnamese delegation to the symposium, is scheduled to meet and discuss with officials of the host country on how to enhance bilateral relations.

Addressing the symposium, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed expressed his hope that the ASEAN membership would increase to 10 over the next few years to include Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar [Burma] as well.

Vo Van Kiet Tours Central Highland Provinces

BK2205131992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] While on an inspection tour of the construction of the north-south 500-kv power grid in late April, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet paid working visits to the standing bodies of the party committees and people's committees of Gia Lai, Cong Tum, and Dac Lac Provinces. Accompanying the chairman was Vu Ngoc Hai, minister of energy.

In Pleiku, Chairman Vo Van Kiet was briefed by the comrade party committee secretaries and people's chairmen of Gia Lai and Cong Tum on the socioeconomic situation in these two provinces since they were divided in accordance with the decision of the Eighth National Assembly's ninth session, as well as on their orientations and planned targets for socioeconomic development in the 1992-95 period and ensuing years.

Gia Lai and Cong Tum are two mountainous provinces with great potential in terms of agriculture, forestry, and hydroelectricity. However, material bases and infrastructures in these provinces remain poor and production is still rife with difficulties. Although the living conditions of the people have been improved, due to a failure to satisfactorily carry out work related to the settlement of nomads, the practice of destroying forests for slash-and-burn farming is still widely prevalent.

To successfully develop the potential and advantages of these two provinces, apart from their own efforts, plans must be formulated by the state to allocate funds to Gia Lai and Cong Tum on a priority basis to enable them to build material bases and upgrade road networks, as well as to build irrigation projects to secure water for agricultural production.

It is also necessary for the state to create favorable conditions for the settlement of our compatriots of various nationalities and define policies to encourage the people to develop production.

Chairman Vo Van Viet also worked with the standing bodies of the party committee and people's committee of Dac Lac Province, and heard the comrade provincial party committee secretary and people's chairman report on the difficulties and favorable conditions of the province in implementing socioeconomic tasks at present and in the years to come.

Although each province has its own characteristics, production in Dac Lac is developing as slowly as in Gia Lai and Cong Tum and still cannot keep pace with the new mechanism.

While working with the comrade leaders of the mountainous provinces in the central highlands, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said:

The potential of this region is marvellous. There remain large areas of hollow land bare hills and abundant sources of manpower. The livelihood of the people in these provinces can be improved increasingly if we know how to devise plans, satisfactorily prepare infrastructures, and encourage the people to adopt settled farming and settled life as well as to plant crops and raise domestic animals in a way that suits their habits. Meanwhile, we must develop the processing of forest and farm products and improve their quality for domestic consumption and export.

Despite existing difficulties, the state will strive to invest in the development of infrastructures, such as building roads and irrigation projects and increasing the supply of electricity for production.

All local administrative echelons and leaders must quickly make a study so that general plans can be formulated for socioeconmic development and investment in a way that brings about the best results.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet urged the central highland provinces to satisfactorily carry out work related to the settlement of nomads in particular, while putting an end to the destruction of forests and encouraging the people to plant trees on hollow land and bare hills for the benefit of every family and the entire country.

Nong Duc Manh Addresses Nationalities Conference

BK2205155592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Recently in Hanoi, the party Central Committee Nationalities Department held a conference on work related to nationalities in the northern part for 1992. Attending the conference were delegates of provinces from Thua Thien-Hue northward and representatives of various organs and sectors at the central level.

Evaluating the implementation of the policy on nationalities in compliance with the spirit of the party Central Committee Political Bureau's resolution No. 22, the conference held that, along with the process of renovation in the country, the advantages in the areas inhabited by the people of ethnic minority groups have successfully been developed in the initial stage. New factors have emerged in production and business activities.

In the lowland regions, thanks to favorable conditions, the commodity economy has gradually taken shape and developed and the livelihood of the people of various nationalities has partly improved.

After various symposiums held by the Council of Ministers on the Khmer, Cham, and other nationalities in the central highlands and central coastal areas, as well as on the H'mong nationality in the north, attention has been paid by all ministries and sectors to investment in the mountainous regions. However, generally speaking, production and the livelihood of our compatriots in the highland and remote regions is still rife with difficulties. Many areas inhabited by these compatriots are still threatened by famine, and some are seriously affected. Meanwhile, cadre-related work in mountainous regions or areas inhabitated by the people of ethnic minority groups has not yet undergone obvious changes.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Nong Duc Manh, political bureau member of the party Central Committee and head of its nationalities department, held that it is necessary to ensure that all ethnic communities in our country have an accurate perception of work related to nationalities. He said:

All provinces must make a study to find out the difficulties that are being encountered by ethnic minority groups in their localities in order to seek a solution and see that investment is made in a proper way, because our budget is still limited. They must, by all means, shift their autarkic economy gradually to the production of goods in order to improve the livelihood of the people.

Australia

Government Condemns Chinese Nuclear Test

BK2205132992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Canberra, May 22 (AFP)—Australia condemned here Friday China's resumption of underground nuclear testing.

"It is very disturbing that the Chinese are conducting tests of such extraordinary size," said acting Foreign Minister John Kerin, referring to the underground test Thursday, estimated by seismologists in the United States to be in the one-megaton range.

Kerin said in a statement it was disappointing that China had resumed testing after two years when both Russia and France had suspended test programs.

China on Friday confirmed the test, which Swedish scientists reported in the far northwestern region of Xinjiang measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale.

"This could indicate efforts to build even more powerful warheads than those currently possessed by China," Kerin said.

He said Australia hoped Beijing was not working counter to one of the most hopeful developments of the decade, the end of the cold war between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

New Zealand

Citizen Said 'Executed' by Thai Police in Rally

BK2405011292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0028 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Wellington, May 24 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Don McKinnon is seeking an urgent explanation from Thai authorities following reports that a New Zealander killed in the Bangkok riots had been executed.

Initial reports said Ian Neumegen, 40, had died accidently when going out to buy food during the riot.

But the Australian newspaper on Friday quoted unnamed eye-witnesses as saying he had been deliberately shot.

External Relations and Trade Ministry spokesman Hugo Judd told the SUNDAY TIMES here that the government had nothing to support or refute the reports.

The New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok had asked "at the highest levels" for a full investigation.

The SUNDAY NEWS quoted a spokesman for McKinnon, saying they had sought "a full explanation from the Thai authorities.

"We have sought that explanation in double quick time," the spokesman said.

The dead man's brother, Max Neumegen, said the family were "disturbed" by the report and were anxiously awaiting government efforts to verify it.

The Australian report said Neumegen died of a gunshot wound as security forces were arresting protest leader Chamlong Simuang on Monday.

An office worker told the newspaper that he was standing next to Neumegen when baton armed riot police charged onlookers.

"We started running away when the police came and I saw the tall farang (foreigner) behind me," the newspaper quoted the worker saying.

"He was too slow and the police easily caught him. They beat him with a baton like a baseball bat, and he fell down on his knees.

"Then I saw a soldier come up to him and start shooting at him. He shot the farang once through the back of the head and I never saw him again."

Another demonstrator said he saw the New Zealander "executed" as he lay on the ground.

"He was shot just like an animal. This man perhaps didn't know what was happening—that's why he was the last one to run away."

Neumegen's Buddhist funeral rites are to be conducted next Friday in a Bangkok monastery by the Buddhist supreme patriarch of Thailand.

The Neumegen family say they cannot afford to go to Bangkok for the ceremonies. They have appealed to the Thai community here for help.

Independent Autopsy Sought

BK2505064392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Wellington, May 25 (AFP)—New Zealand has asked Thai authorities for an independent autopsy to be conducted on the body of Ian Neumegen, who was shot dead during violent clashes in Bangkok last week, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Monday.

Initial reports said Neumegen died accidentally last week after leaving the monastery he lived in to buy food, but press reports later quoted eyewitnesses as saying he had been executed by a solider.

"There is a story ... which said he was shot down in cold blood and we want to see whether or not there is substance or truth to that because that would make it an even more serious matter than it is at present," Bolger said at a press conference.

He said the shootings of Neumegen, and of a second man Brendan Mahoney who remains in a serious condition in a Bangkok hospital, were very sad and tragic for New Zealand and a matter of grave regret for the government.

But even if it was established that Neumegen had been shot in cold blood New Zealand's response could only be limited.

"We don't have any other steps to take, (other than) conveying our most serious condemnation of the lack of control of the defence forces in Thailand."

Neumegen's funeral was due to be conducted by the Buddhist supreme patriarch of Thailand in Bangkok this week.

Bolger said Thailand's King Phumiphon Adunyadet had "paid a singular honour" to Neumegen by bestowing royal patronage on his funeral.